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Troop Withdrawal From Armenia Delayed

ITAR-TASS reports that according to the Russian Defense Ministry, "the withdrawal of subunits of the 7th Army stationed on Armenian territory has not started yet", although Russian Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev had "stated at a news conference held on 22 May that the start of the redeployment was planned for 1 June."

INTERFAX adds that "Russian Defence Ministry official Nikolay Medvedev has confirmed that a political decision on the issue has been made." He also stated "that army units, including those in Armenia had not received any instructions to begin the pull-out yet. Medvedev said troops in Trans-Caucasia were confined to their permanent location."

ITAR-TASS reports units of the 7th Army "will begin withdrawing from Armenia in 10-15 days," according to Army Commander Fedor Reyut. The "presence of [army units] on the territory of the republic is unnecessary," Reyut noted, and families of 120 servicemen had "already left Armenia and part of army property, hardware and armaments were also withdrawn."

Grachev on Military Threats to Republic

Speaking at a conference on "Democratization of Society and Military Security," Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev stated "Russia will regard the dispatch of foreign troops to neighbouring states and the build-up of troops and naval forces at its borders as a direct military threat to the Republic," ITAR-TASS reports. Included in the factors considered potential threats is the "mobilization" and "deployment close to Russian borders" of armed forces as well as "political and economic pressure and military blackmail against Russia."

Grachev noted the formation of the army will "be accompanied by sweeping changes in all aspects of its activities" and will be "free from political influence" because a "system of civil control" will be established.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Named

Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree appointing Anatoliy Chubays Russian deputy prime minister, reports ITAR-TASS. "Chubays will also head the Russian State Property Management Committee."

Yeltsin Appeals to Oil Workers

ITAR-TASS reports that Russian President Boris Yeltsin appealed to oil and gas workers "to stabilize operations in this branch of industry" on 2 June. Yeltsin noted the "'critical situation' which has developed" and that "'the government believes that oil and gas prices should be freed, but not immediately.'"

Military

Baltic Council Protests Russian Troop Actions

LD3005124992 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] A statement by the Baltic Council was adopted in Palanga yesterday. It notes that unlawful actions by Russian troops—which must be withdrawn from Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia—have become more frequent lately. Often these actions are manifestly impudent and provoke armed conflict.

On 28 May, at 1120 in the town of Dobele, Latvia, on the instructions of the chief of staff of the Russian Army unit and local garrison commander, groups of officers and warrant officers armed with automatic weapons and equipped with military means of communications blocked buildings in Dobele town and rayon local government bodies, state institutions, bridges, etc. They thus paralyzed the work of the town and rayon authorities, and created a real threat to the security of the residents.

Such actions by the Russian troops are a flagrant violation of the Republic of Latvia and interference into its domestic affairs.

The Baltic Council states that full responsibility for all this rests with Russia and demands that the incident be investigated and the perpetrators punished. It also states that criminal proceedings must be instituted against the servicemen of the Russian Army who carry out unlawful actions in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Estonia, and the Republic of Latvia.

Tashkent Agreement on Use of Airspace Eyed

PM0106135992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 May 92 First Edition p 2

["Agreement on the Use of Airspace," signed 15 May 1992 in Tashkent, carried under the "Official Section" rubric]

[Text] The CIS member states, hereinafter referred to as "the member states," proceeding from the premise that each member state has complete and exclusive sovereignty over the airspace above its land and water territory,

taking account the importance of questions regarding the use of airspace and air traffic control and monitoring,

desiring to contribute to the further development and strengthening of cooperation between the contracting states,

have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The member states undertake, until the creation of appropriate state structures and the adoption of normative acts dealing with the use of airspace, to be guided by the requirements of existing normative documents on the use and monitoring of airspace which do not conflict with member states' legislation.

Article 2

The organs of the unified air traffic control and air defense system on the member states' territory are the main organs for questions of controlling and monitoring the use of airspace.

Air traffic plans are coordinated with the defense ministries (committees) of the member states on whose territory it is planned to use airspace.

Violations of the procedure for using airspace are notified by the organs of the unified traffic control and air defense system to the defense ministries (committees) of the member states on whose territory the violation occurred.

Article 3

The existing Main Center of the Unified Air Traffic Control System and the Air Defense Forces Central Command Post are tasked with coordinating actions to agree a procedure for using airspace and for monitoring it.

Article 4

The member states will implement coordinated activity in carrying out scientific studies, the design, manufacture, acquisition, and introduction of technical facilities for and systems of air traffic control, navigation, landing, and communications, including by means of creating joint programs in the sphere of improving the use of airspace taking account of the interests of the Commonwealth states' armed forces and other users of airspace.

Article 5

The member states pledge to carry out on contract terms the targeted training and retraining of specialists in the spheres of the use of airspace and air traffic control under agreed methods and programs.

The diplomas and certificates issue by them, and other documents certifying specialists' specialties and qualifications, including those issued before this agreement comes into force, are recognized on the territories of Commonwealth states.

Article 6

The member states are to elaborate legislative acts on the use of airspace in the transitional period before 1994.

The member states recognize the need, during elaboration of legislative acts regulating the procedure for the use of airspace and the activity of aviation, to take account of the interests of the Commonwealth Armed Forces and other users of airspace.

Article 7

The member states will allow the airspace above their territory to be used for the Commonwealth Armed Forces' activity and will not engage in any actions leading to the disturbance or hampering of their normal functioning.

Military aircraft of the member states and Commonwealth Joint Armed Forces will carry out flights in the airspace of all Commonwealth states in accordance with

the special regulations established jointly with member states' defense ministries (committees). These regulations must not conflict with the regulations for flights by aircraft operating on these states' territory.

Article 8

The agreement enters into force the moment it is signed.

Done in the city of Tashkent 15 May 1992 in one original in the Russian language. The original is deposited in the archives of the Republic of Byelarus Government, which will send a certified copy thereof to the states that have signed this agreement.

The document was signed by representatives of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Byelarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Ukraine (with comments).

Media

ITAR-TASS Reviews Press for 2 Jun

LD0206050592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0429 GMT 2 Jun 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, June 2 (ITAR-TASS)—An economic reform crisis that has begun to show in Russia and the situation in the Dniester region and South Ossetia are the principal topics in the morning editions of today's Moscow-based newspapers. The press also highlights the application of U.N. sanctions against Yugoslavia and Russia's stand on the issue.

The main danger to the Russian Government is now being posed by two problems—a payments crisis and a cash circulation one. Within June, the emission of money is to be brought up to 140,000 million rubles, which will make it possible to reduce the shortage of cash. A statement to this effect made on Monday [1 June] by Yegor Gaydar, first deputy premier of the Russian Government, at a conference of the parliamentary coalition for reforms, is highlighted by ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA.

Gaydar described the Russian parliament's successive turning down of a bankruptcy bill and amendments to the privatisation programme as "very serious blows to the reform", NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (INDEPENDENT GAZETTE) points out.

The parliament which blocks reforms and, on the other hand, "the government's actions and its taxation policy, the strange situation of instability and dual power in Russia do not promote the activation of effective incentives to the development of production. Reforms are skidding," TRUD newspaper points out in comment on the situation.

The decline in people's living standards has accelerated. According to TRUD, over the past four months the growth of wages in the republic's economy was only 36.42 per cent, and not 70 per cent of price increases, as the government had promised.

On the other hand, the outcome of the acutest shortage of cash was that, as of June 1, the state's indebtedness in the payment of wages, allowances and pensions to the population amounted to 120 billion rubles. "Social strain is nearing a dangerous point," TRUD concludes.

"A critical moment has come in the development of economic reform," KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA observes. The Government of Russia makes desperate attemps to resolve the problem of cash but the emergence of a large amount of cash in circulation would bring about a steep rise in prices.

"Taking into account the increase in the prices of energy resources and farm products, it can be expected that there will be a galloping hyperinflation in two or three months' time," the newspaper predicts.

In the opinion of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, "the aggregate actions of the government, the parliament and increasingly active trade unions have launched a reform model that accelerates the rate of inflation. This means that a change of the reform model becomes quite probable".

"The course towards a presidential republic has not changed in the political field, whereas in the economy the Gaydar team's 'fraternisation' with the military-industrial complex is now in full progress," KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA notes.

"Among deputy premiers, Gaydar now has none of his former team any longer except Aleksandr Shokhin, who is in charge of social issues," the INDEPENDENT GAZETTE writes in comment on the latest reshuffle in the Russian cabinet: The appointment of Georgiy Khizhi—a "representative of the military-industrial lobby"—and Viktor Chernomyrdin.

"In Russia, there will be no single economic team now. The new government cannot be a government of reform. It will be a government of hyperinflation brought about by mounting lobbyism 'from the inside'. It becomes a transitional government on the way towards a strong communist cabinet", the INDEPENDENT GAZETTE maintains.

A group of Russian people's deputies in an article contributed to ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA strongly criticise the social policy of the Russian Government and, particularly, Aleksandr Shokhin, minister of labour and employment.

The number of unemployed has doubled as compared with January 1992 and is now 151,000, the deputies report in the article headlined "Every Fifth Family Is About To Be Faced With Unemployment". According to their estimates, unemployment is expected to grow sharply this summer.

The Treaty on the Principles of Inter-State Relations, Friendship and Cooperation between Russia and Uzbekistan, signed in Moscow on Saturday [30 May], is "one of realistic ways towards strengthening the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)", President

Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan said in a PRAVDA interview. He reaffirmed his commitment to the CIS, emphasising that the CIS "is essential for all of us to get out of the impasse and crisis".

"We are not involved in this senseless war in any way," Major-General Yuriy Netkachev, commander of the 14th Army stationed in the Dniester region, told PRAVDA.

During the current, fourth, aggravation of the situation since the outbreak of the conflict in Moldova's east, about 110 civilians have been killed and more than 300 wounded, Dniester parliament chief Grigoriy Marakutsa said in a PRAVDA interview.

General of the Army Pavel Grachev, Russia's Minister of Defence, comments in an interview with the INDEPENDENT GAZETTE on the latest developments in South Ossetia and on the Ossetian side's seizure of the military hardware of the units of Russian troops stationed there.

Grachev said the hardware is now being returned and a paratroop regiment has been brought to South Ossetia "to prevent disgraceful things." The general said "the toughest measures will be taken everywhere to enhance the guarding of Army facilities."

Under the headline "The Present Day and Future of Russia's Armed Forces", KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) carries details of a scientific conference held in Moscow May 27-30 on the subject "The Military Security of Russia". Defence Minister Grachev's speech at the conference was widely covered in the press.

The newspaper runs excerpts from speeches by participants in the conference who made an estimate of the military and strategic situation developing in the world, obviously not in favour of Russia, and voiced criticisms of views as regards "the purely defensive nature of the military doctrine" and gave facts illustrative of a disastrous state of affairs in the Army.

Russia, which at the CSCE conference in Helsinki, did not fully share Europe's opinion about Serbia, "is now too dependent on those countries to which it at first tried to counterpose itself," KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA points out in comment on Russia's support in the U.N. Security Council for the package of sanctions against Yugoslavia.

Touching upon prospects for the implementation of the decisions, the newspaper points out that "despite the U.N. Security Council's resolute measures, there is little hope that the war would cease immediately. Economic sanctions would hit the industry and the people and would not paralyse the Army. It is possible that the Balkans are now drifting into a still greater war which would cost Europe dearly.

The Yeltsin-Gaydar government, following "directions from Washington", "for the first time in Russia's history is busy betraying our national interests in the Balkans," writes SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA points to the inconsistent stand of the U.N. Security Council which, when passing a resolution to this effect, did not reflect in it the role of Croatia in the escalation of the conflict. The sanctions are directed only against Serbia, whereas they should have been applied to all the parties involved in the conflict, the newspaper believes.

By voting for the Security Council resolution without any reservations, "Moscow has practically shown that it up to now has no policy of its own, a policy thoroughly checked against national priorities, in such an explosive region," PRAVDA emphasises.

The newspaper is convinced that it should not necessarily signify Russia's siding with Belgrade in all matters but it would have been necessary "to reserve its special stand, the only wise position in this case, of equal consideration for the conflicting sides".

Moscow hopes for the development of economic relations with South Africa, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA notes in connection with South African President Frederik de Klerk's visit to Russia. "According to a tradition that has already been established in democratic Russia, much here is being expected precisely from those countries with which the Soviet Union had either bad relations or none at all. It is believed here that in exchange for criticisms of the Stalinist-Brezhnevite-Gorbachevite nomenklatura, our new friends would reward us with additional credits, parcels with humanitarian aid supplies and other goods," the newspaper writes in comment on the fact that on the eve of de Klerk's visit, IZVESTIYA published documents from the archives of the Soviet Communist Party about support which the Soviet Union had rendered to the South Africa Communist Party.

Ivan Silayev, permanent representative of Russia at the European Communities, in a KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA interview, analyses the visit to Moscow by Jacques Delors, president of the Commission of the European Communities, and the preparation of an agreement between Russia and the EC.

International Affairs

Withdrawal of 7th Army From Armenia Delayed

LD0106154192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1334 GMT 1 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow, 1 Jun—The withdrawal of subunits of the 7th Army stationed on Armenian territory has not started yet. An ITAR- TASS correspondent was told at the press center of the Russian Defense Ministry that no orders on this have yet been dispatched from the Russian military command to the army. Its units and subunits are stationed at their places of permanent deployment.

Russian Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev stated at a news conference held on 22 May that the start of the redeployment was planned for 1 June. According to the minister, it is planned to get a Motorized Infantry Division out to Russia and to disband two fortified areas. Other units and subunits of the 7th Army, Pavel Grachev noted, will be (?cut) within the framework of the program of the construction of the Russian armed forces.

[Moscow INTERFAX in English at 1614 GMT on 1 June, in a related report, adds: "In the wake of the reported beginning of the troop withdrawal from the Caucasus, Russian Defence Ministry official Nikolay Medvedev has confirmed that a political decision on the issue has been made. At the same time he told IF [INTERFAX] that army units, including those in Armenia had not received any instructions to begin the pull-out yet. Medvedev said troops in Trans-Caucasia were confined to their permanent location."]

Official Comments on Events in Ossetia

MK0106112792 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 May 92 p 3

[Igor Terekhov and Petr Akopov report under general headline: "Georgian Delegation in North Ossetia, Russian Delegation in South Ossetia"]

[Text] A Russian parliamentary delegation led by Nikolay Medvedev, chairman of the Commission for National-State Organization and Interethnic Relations, has returned from its trip to Tskhinval and Vladikavkaz. In Vladikavkaz, Medvedev held a news conference where he said that what he saw in Tskhinval can only be compared to Nagorno-Karabakh.

When asked by your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent whether Russian troops may be brought into the conflict zone, as the North Ossetian leaders are asking, the chairman of the parliamentary commission replied that South Ossetia's official armed formations could be given enough arms, but that "it would, of course, be more effective to bring professional troops into the conflict region because the extremists would then know that severe retaliation may follow."

Nikolay Medvedev voiced puzzlement as to why the Russian authorities are actively intervening in events in Yugoslavia or Crimea, but are keeping quiet when it comes to Russian citizens on Russia's borders with the Transcaucasus, among others. He suggested that the personal relations between Boris Yeltsin and Eduard Shevardnadze may be a factor here.

According to Medvedev, the situation in North Ossetia is very tense and the economic blockade of Georgia is continuing, costing the Russian state tens of millions of rubles in direct losses alone; and the situation will worsen when Georgia and Armenia demand compensation for the damage incurred. If the Russian authorities do not take steps regarding the ongoing bombardment of Tskhinval, the North Ossetian leadership will take even more severe action.

In Tskhinval, members of the South Ossetian leadership asked Russia for protection, Medvedev said. We tried to speak of international law and tell them that Georgia is another state. The main thing is that people are dying in South Ossetia and six of the 36 who died near the village of Kekhvi were Russian citizens. When the Russian Supreme Soviet discussed the matter, many deputies failed to grasp the full gravity of the situation, and the leadership of the federal organs of authority is taking an overly diplomatic approach to the problem of South Ossetia. That is what Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy thought after hearing the delegation members report on the results of their trip during the night of 27-28 May.

That is why we have the situation whereby the North Ossetian leadership has decided on sanctions against Georgia. When I was asked how legitimate I think these decisions are, Medvedev said, I replied that they were adopted in the name of the Russian Federation since North Ossetia signed the Federation Treaty and is part of Russia.

Georgia views things differently. It is asking Russia not to interfere in the talks with North Ossetia, but the talks must be held at state level, and that means Russia and Georgia alone. The president and the government now have the right to take any steps, including sanctions.

Grachev on Status of South Ossetia-Based Units

MK0206083092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Jun 92 p 1

[Interview with Russian Defense Minister General P. Grachev by correspondent P. Felgengauer under "Army" rubric; place and date not given: "Russian Assault on Tskhinval. Defense Minister General Grachev Comments on Latest Events in South Ossetia"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] On 31 May, the South Ossetian leadership began "nationalizing" a combat engineer regiment and a fire support helicopter regiment (three squadrons of 40 Mi-24's and 20 Mi-8's) of the Transcaucasus Military District, which are under Russian jurisdiction. Your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent asked Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, to comment on this action.

[Felgengauer] Could you tell us, please, what is going on in South Ossetia? Have the troops really been nationalized?

[Grachev] The combat engineer and helicopter regiments have been nationalized. I absolutely do not agree with this and have lodged a protest with them. The commander of the Transcaucasus Military District was there 31 May and spoke to the Ossetian leadership. They admitted in principle that they had been overhasty and hardware has now begun to be returned.

[Felgengauer] So, military hardware was actually seized?

[Grachev] Yes, it was, but it is now being returned. In order to prevent outrages, I have dispatched a parachute regiment there from Kutaisi in order to reinforce our installations. That will happen in all areas in the future where there are encroachments on arms and hardware and our families and officers come under threat. The most rigorous measures will be taken everywhere to step up the guard on installations.

[Felgengauer] Have there been hostilities?

[Grachev] No, there have been no hostilities?

Estonia's Capture of Air Defense Unit Protested

OW0206011492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1917 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has strongly protested the capture of Russia's military AD [Air Defense] installation in the town of Valga (South Estonia) perpetrated by the Estonian Home Guard May 24. The RF MFA's [Russian Federation's Ministry of Foreign Affairs] official note of protest forwarded to the Estonian Ambassador in Moscow insists on immediate release of all the SAM [surface-to-air missile] unit facilities, full investigation of the occurrence and punishment of those who bear responsibility for it.

Talking to Baltfax correspondent Oleg Muratsyan, Russia's MFA spokesman indicated that the note of protest is based on the information provided by Russia's headquarters and he has "no reasons to doubt its authenticity". In his words, the Estonian side had not provided any explanations to the incident by the time the note was compiled.

The Estonian side alleges, however, that the AD installation was occupied on the decision of the Estonian government with the purpose "to preclude waste and damage of military equipment".

More on Relations With, Policy on Yugoslavia

Ministry Drafting Sanctions

OW0106125292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1222 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Report by Vyacheslav Terekhov, Boris Grishchenko, and Igor Porshnev from "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In view of the U.N. sanctions (Resolution 757) which were introduced a few days ago against the Union Republic of Yugoslavia (consisting of Serbia and Montenegro—DP [Diplomatic Panorama] and which have been backed by Russia, the Russian Federation's Foreign Ministry is drafting proposals for the Russian Government on ways of their implementtion, said a Russian diplomat specializing in relations with the republics of former Yugoslavia.

He said that the UN sanctions envisage, among other things, an oil embargo. The former Soviet Union was one of the main suppliers of oil and oil products to Yugoslavia. However, lately the situation has changed radically. Since the beginning of the year, Russia, which is experiencing enormous economic difficulties, has not supplied Serbia with a single tonne of oil, said this diplomat. This information must be verified, however, he added.

The UN sanctions also envisages the lowering of the level of diplomatic relations with Union Republic of Yugoslavia, as well as cuts in the duplomatic staff. The Russian diplomat noted, though, that the staff of the Yugoslav Embassy in Moscow, led by a charge d'affaires, not by an ambassador, is already very small.

Commentary on UN Sanctions

LD0106141892 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Station Commentary by Aleksandr Shakhin]

[Excerpts] The United Nations Security Council sanctions against Yugoslavia have come into force. The world community has shown it does not wish to put up with violence in the Balkans. In our commentary Aleksandr Shakhin looks at the situation in that country. [Passage omitted]

The Russian delegation voted for the resolution, though, as has been reported from the United Nations headquarters, Russia's delegate suggested serious amendments to the draft resolution, claiming that not only Serbia and Montenegro are responsible for the current situation in Sarajevo. Journalists also say the United Nations resolution mainly accommodates the economic interests of West European countries. For instance, the sanctions do not ban passage of transit cargoes by Serbia and Montenegro. The exception was made at the request of some western States. On the other hand, the resolution ignores Serbia's ties with East European countries.

Many difficulties have arisen for Russia, which supplies oil to Yugoslavia and buys certain goods from it. Yet Russia has taken a principled approach and joined those who wish to stop the bloodshed in the Balkans. According to the Russian Government, Russia has voted for the sanctions since, as a great power, it feels responsible for maintaining international law and order. At the same time Russia believes the United Nations Security Council must do all what it can to solve the crisis in Bosnia-Hercegovina and in Yugoslavia as a whole.

Sanctions are emergency measures and the world community felt obliged to apply them in a bid to stop violence in Bosnia and Hercegovina. No doubt sanctions may help, but they can hardly settle the antagonisms completely so the world community must step up its peacemaking effort.

Greece Warns Against Recognition of Macedonia

LD3005123492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1120 GMT 30 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Malyshev]

[Text] Athens, 30th May—The Greek Government has warned Moscow that recogition of the Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia before a final decision is taken on this issue by the EC will be regarded as an "unfriendly act" towards Greece. This is said in a statement that was issued here on 30 May by the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Aware of Russia's intention to recognize Skopje, the statement emphasizes, the Greek Government has asked the Russian Government not to take this step before a final decision by the EC.

Grachev Comments on Dniester Region Situation

LD0106185592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1617 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow, 1 Jun (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Army should be set up from scratch, thinks Army General Pavel Grachev, the Russian defense minister. He stated this in an interview with IZVESTIYA newspaper published 1 June.

The minister expressed concern in connection with the fact that "the Moscow Military District has turned, in essence, into a frontline district" following the withdrawal of Soviet troops from East European countries and the collapse of the USSR. In connection with this, Grachev proposed that a new military district—Smolenskiy—be set up in Russia. However, he acknowledged that if one takes such a step one has to take into account the complex economic situation that has come about in the country.

Grachev said that it is necessary to move gradually to a contract system of military service and the setting up of the Russian professional army, but that this will require about 68 billion rubles. He thinks that it is impossible to ask the Supreme Soviet to produce such a sum at present.

As for the situation in the Dniester region and claims by Moldovan President Mircea Snegur regarding the Russian 14th Army's participation in the armed conflict, the defense minster said that this is "nonsense." In his opinion, the Moldovan president continues to play "the army card provoking the army to open fire in response to firing on its sites." "It seems that Moldova is waiting precisely for this to happen to demonstrate to the whole world that it is being subjected to aggression," he stressed.

More Reportage on South Africa's de Klerk Visit

Seeks International Support

LD0106130992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 1 Jun 92

[A. Sturua video report; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Frederik de Klerk, President of the Republic of South Africa [RSA], arrived in Moscow on an official visit today. This, the first visit to Russia by a South African president, is taking place three months after the two countries established diplomatic relations.

The official meeting ceremony took place in St George's Hall at the Kremlin. Russian President Boris Yeltsin and RSA President de Klerk held talks immediately afterwards.

[Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 1157 GMT on 1 June, in a report on the talks similar to referent item, adds the following:

["President de Klerk also said that the South African Government needs international support for reforms, and pointed to the desirability of support on the part of the Russian Federation for restoring South Africa to its seat in the United Nations.

["It was noted that both Russia and South Africa have unique natural resources and could exert considerable influence on the world market of raw materials."]

Today the South African president laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier near the Kremlin Wall. The high-ranking guest honored the memory of those who perished on the battlefields of World War II with a minute of silence.

Meets With Yeltsin

LD0106182392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 01 Jun 92

[Report by correspondent Andrey Krasnov]

[Text] Frederik de Klerk, president of the Republic of South Africa, arrived in Moscow 1 June. At noon, de Klerk held talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Andrey Krasnov reviews the talks as follows.

[Krasnov] Preparations for Frederik de Klerk's arrival in Moscow started a while ago. South African Foreign Minister Roelof Botha was in Moscow on a private visit last year. At the time he clearly did not like the atmosphere of rapid disintegration within the USSR. As a result, de Klerk's scheduled December trip was postponed. The pause in ties between Russia and South Africa was not too long, as Moscow and Pretoria need each other. Russian diplomatic support is important for South Africa. Actually, Frederik de Klerk did not conceal this. De Klerk made a direct appeal to Boris Yeltsin for Russian diplomatic help in the United Nations. By all appearances, such help was promised to de Klerk.

The Russian president told journalists that the ideological barriers between the two countries have collapsed. In exchange for its diplomatic support, Russia will probably

receive economic dividends. According to Vyacheslav Kostikov, head of the president's press service, Russia and South Africa have decided to conclude a major economic and financial agreement without delay. Moreover, a whole series of political documents on the widening of contacts is foreseen.

During the talks, Boris Yeltsin said that Russia, aware of the difficult economic situation in South Africa, has not made an official request for trade credits. However, if such an opportunity arises, Moscow will use these funds for importing goods from South Africa. INTERFAX reports that this proposal by the Russian president was received with interest. It is noteworthy that in this initial meeting, Frederik de Klerk tried to pressure Boris Yeltsin. De Klerk noted in particular, the upcoming visit to Moscow by Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress [ANC]. However, this time Boris Nikkolayevich was up to the mark. He diplomatically stated that Mandela would come to Moscow not as the ANC leader, but as a distinguished fighter for human rights.

Clearly, Russian diplomacy is not just laying its marker with Frederik de Klerk. It obviously intends to keep up good relations with the opposite side as well.

Discusses Economic, Political Ties

OW0106125392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1221 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Report by Vyacheslav Terekhov, Boris Grishchenko, and Igor Porshnev from "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [1 June], Russian President Boris Yeltsin and President of South Africa Frederik de Klerk had talks in the Kremlin. Both presidents were satisfied with the comprehensive discussion of the political, economic and other vitally-important aspects of relations between the two countries. Head of the Rusian president's press service Vyacheslav Kostikov who took part in the talks told INTERFAX that the two parties agreed to conclude a major economic and financial agreement without any delays. Besides that, they are planning to conclude a number of economic and political agreements on broadening bilateral contacts.

Vyacheslav Kostikov said that during the talks the two leaders stated that their countries had "unique possibility of influencing the world markets of raw materials."

Boris Yeltsin said that aware of the complicated economic situation in South Africa, Russia did not ask it for loans. But if such an opportunity made itself available, Russia would use these loans for importing goods from South Africa. This idea aroused the South African side's interest.

The final communique says that Russia "found South Africa's intention to resume its full-scale participation in the UN and other international organizations as quite reasonable." Both parties stated that human rights and freedoms were of universal significance and constituted the backbone of any democratic society. Russia, says the document, welcomes democratization in South Africa, believing that it may benefit the whole of the continent.

Joint Communique Issued

MB0106112192 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1038 GMT 1 Jun 92

[By Ben MacLennan]

[Text] Moscow, June 1 SAPA—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has accepted an invitation to visit South Africa [SA], and has expressed support for South Africa's attempts to get back into the United Nations.

A joint communique issued after two hours of talks with his SA [South African] counterpart in the Kremlin on Monday [1 June] said Mr. Yeltsin had accepted the invitation from Mr. F W de Klerk "with gratitude".

"Appropriate dates will be finalised in due course through diplomatic channels," the communique said.

It said that against the background of the development of democratic reforms in SA, Russia considered as "well founded" SA's aspirations to renew its full participation in the activities of the UN and other international organisations.

Russia and SA confirmed their interest in developing mutually beneficial relations and undertook to encourage contacts and exchanges at all levels between the two countries.

"The new opportunities for mutually beneficial trade created by the current transition of the Russian economy to a market system were emphasised as well as the considerable potential for bilateral economic contacts, investments, joint business ventures, science and technology, transport, culture, tourism and sport.

"It was agreed to encourage the realisation of these opportunities, including the creation of an appropriate legal basis."

The document said Mr. de Klerk had briefed Mr. Yeltsin on political changes underway in SA.

Mr. Yeltsin had welcomed the "considerable progress achieved in the dismantling of apartheid and the transition to an united, non-racial, democratic state in South Africa".

"In this context Russia attaches paramount importance to the constructive co-operation among representative political forces within the framework of Codesa [Convention for a Democratic South Africa]."

Mr. Yeltsin said democratisation in SA could have a beneficial effect on the entire region and said he hoped that leaders of the region would renew their efforts to eliminate all sources of conflict.

Both parties stressed the necessity to ensure the holding of free elections in Angola during the time framework that had been fixed, and of achieving the earliest ceasefire in Mozambique.

'Text' of Joint Communique

LD0106164592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1436 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow, 1 Jun (ITAR-TASS)—The text of the Russian-South African communique adopted today follows:

Joint Russian-South African Communique

President F.W. de Klerk of the Republic of South Africa paid an official visit to Russia from 1 to 2 June 1992 at the invitation of President B.N. Yeltsin of the Russian Federation. Talks took place between the two heads of state on a wide circle of issues of mutual interest. The talks were held in a friendly and constructive spirit.

President F.W. de Klerk briefed President B.N. Yeltsin on the political changes currently taking place in South Africa. President B.N. Yeltsin welcomed the considerable progress achieved in dismantling apartheid and in making the transition to a single, nonracial, and democratic state in South Africa. In this connection, Russia attributes prime importance to constructive cooperation between the representatives of the political forces within the context of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa. Both leaders agreed on the universal significance of human rights and freedoms for all, regardless of race, sex, creed, or political views. President B.N. Yeltsin voiced the opinion that the process of democratization in South Africa could have a beneficial effect on the entire region. Yeltsin expressed the hope that the leaders of this region will renew their efforts to remove all sources of conflicts.

Both sides underlined the need to ensure that free elections are held in Angola within the specified provisional timeframe with the participation of the United Nations, as well as the need to achieve an urgent ceasefire in Mozambique.

Both sides acknowledged the importance of the role played by the Organization of African Unity in sustaining peace in Africa, as well as in developing political, economic, and other forms of interaction between the states of the continent.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of South Africa welcomed the end of the "cold war," the strengthening of trust and cooperation in international relations, and the role played by the United Nations in international affairs. The sides underlined the importance of the present general adherence to democratic norms.

In the context of the development of democratic reforms in South Africa, Russia regarded as well-founded, the Republic of South Africa's desire to renew its full participation in the activities of the United Nations and other international organizations.

The South African side acknowledged the importance of democratic reforms in the Russian Federation for both the peoples of Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States. The hope was voiced that this process would promote peace and stability on the basis of the long-term interests of all these states.

Russia and South Africa confirmed their commitment to developing mutually beneficial relations on the principles of sovereign equality, noninterference in one another's internal affairs, and strict respect for universally recognized human rights and freedoms. They pledged to encourage contacts and exchanges between Russian and South African public and private organizations and citizens.

The presence was noted of the new possibilities for mutually benefical trade created by the transition to the market system which is under way in the Russian economy now, and of the significant potential for bilateral economic contacts, investment, joint enterprises, and cooperation in the sphere of science and technology, transport, culture, tourism, and sports. An understanding was reached on encouraging the realization of these possibilties, including by creating the relevant legal basis.

Both sides stated their interest in holding regular consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa on bilateral issues, and regional and world problems.

F.W. de Klerk renewed his invitation to B.N. Yeltsin to pay an official visit to South Africa. The invitation was accepted with gratitude. The relevant date will be definitively set later through diplomatic channels.

Moscow, 1 June 1992

Talks Reviewed

LD0106142992 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Station Commentary by Aleksandr Pogodin]

[Text] In our commentary Aleksandr Pogodin looks at the first day of the South African President Frederik de Klerk's visit to Moscow.

The talks between President Yeltsin and President de Klerk are yet to be evaluated, along with the agreements for bilateral cooperation expected to be signed. Some general points, however, can be made. When Russia and South Africa established diplomatic relations three months ago many in both countries and elsewhere considered it sensational, given the decades of ideological confrontation, mutual isolation, and political struggle between South Africa and the former Soviet Union. Yet the decision of the two countries to embark on a new type of bilateral relations was a natural outgrowth of developments.

The system of apartheid is getting a profound shaking as Frederik de Klerk's government acts to democratize society and stop the internal confrontation, and prospects are shaping up for the creation of a new state system in which the black majority will have its share in government. Though these trends have only begun to gain in strength they cannot be ignored.

Parallelly [as heard], Russia has removed ideology from its foreign policy and shifted to a pragmatic approach in assessing world affairs. It now seeks normal and mutually profitable relations with all countries that wish the same, despite different stands on some problems. There is some opposition to this. A group of Russian MPs [members of parliament] have voiced objections to President de Klerk's visit, apparently failing to understand that top level contacts with South Africa and greater cooperation can only stimulate South Africa's development away from apartheid and toward democracy. In the view of President of the African National Congress Nelson Mandela the visit shows that Russia, too, is participating in the peace process gaining ground in his country.

De Klerk Holds News Conference

LD0106171892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1430 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] A news conference given by South African President de Klerk took place at the press center of the Russian Foreign Ministry today. He said:

[Begin de Klerk recording in English, fading into Russian translation] We thank the Russian people for the very warm welcome we have received since we set foot on the Russian soil. Our talks with President Yeltsin and the Moscow mayor which took place in the second half of the day were of a constructive and friendly nature. I would just like to say that as far as trade, interaction, and all those issues on which we are holding bilateral talks, it is clear now that an official agreement on the issues of trade and civil aviation will soon be concluded by exchanging notes.

Apart from that, I would like to note that the South African Government has made a decision to grant revolving credit to the Russian Federation in order to expand trade relations between our states.

Many changes are now taking place in both countries: yours and ours. The process of changes in South Africa is of a dynamic nature. Similarly, dynamic changes are taking place in your country. As for our changes, they are focused on problems of a constitutional nature. Fortunately, we have inherited a healthy and sound economy that is firmly based on the principles of free enterprise. In this respect, the tasks we face are less complicated and difficult than the ones you face. On the other hand, if we are to talk about matters of a constitutional nature, then our problems might turn out to be more complicated, because a certain framework making it possible to reflect and take into account the multicolored nature of your society and all its social diversity is already at your disposal. You already have a ready federal structure.

Realizing that, of course, you are now working on serious adjustments that will have to be made to this system. In our case, the task is to reconstruct the system of centralized power, to hand the power from the central level to local levels, and to create a sound and stable constitution.

We continue to look for decisions that will make it possible to reflect all the diversity of our society, but not on the basis of racial discrimination or any sort of discrimination, so that no ethnic majority can ever have a chance to abuse its power to the detriment of minority interests. [end recording]

Further on News Conference

MB0106180892 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1728 GMT 1 Jun 92

[By Ben MacLennan]

[Text] Moscow, June 1 SAPA—In a gesture clearly designed to strengthen political ties with what is still an important player in the international arena, President F.W. de Klerk promised the Russian Federation R[rand]100-million in revolving credit to facilitate trade between the two counrties.

He made the announcment at a press conference in Moscow on Monday [1 June] near the end of a busy day that included meetings with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Moscow Mayor Gavril Pogov and, earlier, a red-carpet welcome at Moscow airport, where a Russian military band serenaded him with "Die Stem".

He also found time to go sightseeing in Red Square and at the Kremlin, where he, his wife Marike, and senior members of his entourage will stay over in the presidential guest suite before flying on to St Petersburg on Tuesday [2 June].

He spent about two hours with Mr Yeltsin at the Kremlin before lunch, and said afterwards the Russian president had accepted an invitation to come to South Africa at a date to be decided.

It was also announced that Russia had expressed support for South African efforts to regain membership of the United Nations.

At Monday [1 June] afternoon's press conference, Mr de Klerk said the initial size of the credit line "will be R100-million which is more or less in round figures US50-million".

"It is not a very big amount but we regard that as a starting point."

He was sure that as trade between the two countries grew the credit would "evolve further".

Speaking at a state banquet hosted by President Yeltsin at the Kremlin in the evening, Mr de Klerk said South Africa was a natural gateway to the markets of the entire southern African region, and Russian entrepreneurs should avail themselves of this opportunity.

"Now that Communism and apartheid are out of the way, our countries can play a new and constructive role both in the regional and global contexts."

Replying to questions at the press conference, he denied the National Party wanted a minority white veto on regional issues in a new constitution.

"In any event I expect my party will get much more than 25 percent of the total vote.

"We are not making a constitution for the next two years or three years or five years. We are talking of a constitution that must last for 50 and 100 and 200 years. We want a constitution which will be able to stop in the next generation or two generations from now a new Hitler standing up in our midst, or a new Stalin, or a new Mussolini."

He said he had not consulted African National Congress President Nelson Mandela on his trip to Russia. He hoped when Mr Mandela made the same journey, "efforts will be made by all those involved to press on him the fallacy of an economic policy based on Marxist socialism.... and the negative consequences of such a policy having been applied for such a long period".

He also said the National Party remained fiercely opposed to Communism, and that the overwhleming majority of South Africans rejected the ideology.

"We are fighting Communism in South Africa but we are convinced we are going to win and we are not worried about it."

De Klerk, Yeltsin Cited

LD0106191292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1800 GMT 1 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Nikishov]

[Text] Moscow, 1 Jun—The Republic of South Africa [RSA] president's visit to Russia "completes the period of establishing first contacts and will, I hope, open up a more significant stage in establishing and developing links in concrete spheres." This was stated today by Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin at an official dinner in honor of RSA President Frederik de Klerk, who is here on an official visit.

As Boris Yeltsin noted, the history of links between Russia and the RSA have "taken a difficult course." It has contained periods of both sincere human concern and mutual alienation. The "fundamental shift" currently under way in the historical development of the RSA towards building a non-racial democratic state is primarily linked in Russia, according to its president, with the political line of President Frederik de Klerk and with the "activity of the opposition leader Nelson Mandela."

"We are brought closer not only by history, but also by modern times," the Russian leader said, having in mind the "period of deep, and at times, dramatic transformations" being experienced by both countries. He welcomed the efforts of the government and other participants in the negotiating process in the RSA to try to reach accords on creating transitional structures of power and to agree the principles of a non-racial democratic South Africa.

Thanks to the radical changes in both states, Boris Yeltsin noted, "positive shifts in mutual relations between Russia and the RSA have also become possible." The potential for cooperation between them is, in his view, "considerable."

In a reply speech the South African president noted that "our peoples have always been linked by sincere feelings of warmth and friendship, in spite of the alienation brought about in the past by ideological differences." He said that both countries are currently encountering difficulties connected with radical reforms "during the transition from old, obsolete systems to new ones which secure greater freedom, democracy, prosperity, and security for our peoples."

"I can see no reason why Russia and the RSA should not develop mutually beneficial relations replete with real content in many areas," Frederik De Klerk stressed. In his view, this concerns trade, culture, science, technology, tourism, sport, and business. The immense resources of Russia and the other CIS countries enable broad cooperation to be developed, the president noted.

Russia and the RSA can play a new and constructive role "after the elimination of communism and apartheid" in the "regional and global context," the South African leader believes. In his view the changes in both countries are important not only for their future, but also "for the future of our regions, and indeed for the whole world."

In conclusion, the RSA president expressed confidence that both countries "stand on the threshold of a new and better future." "I believe that we can learn from one another and that our common experience is creating a foundation for special mutual understanding," De Klerk stressed.

De Klerk Departs For St. Petersburg

LD0206081592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0712 GMT 2 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Nikishov]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Jun—Frederic de Klerk, president of the Republic of South Africa [RSA], who is on an official visit to Russia at the invitation of President Boris Yeltsin, left Moscow for St. Petersburg today. A meeting between the Russian and RSA presidents took place yesterday, as did expanded Russo-South African talks. At a final news conference, Frederik de Klerk described his visit as "historic."

In St. Petersburg, the RSA president will meet with the city's leaders. He will see the sights of the "Northern Venice" and visit the town of Pushkin. In the evening he will travel to Tokyo.

Official Denies Handing Over Agents in Iraq

PM0106112092 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 May 92 p 4

[Vladimir Kolestikov report: "Russian Intelligence Official Tells AL-HAYAH: We Have No Links With Arab Terrorists"]

[Excerpts] Moscow—Yuriy Kobladze, director of the press department of Russia's foreign intelligence organ, said that his country's foreign intelligence organ "has maintained no links with Arab or non-Arab terrorists since the first tide of international detente" in the early seventies. He denied that Moscow could have handed over its agents in Iraq to the Americans.

Answering a question from AL-HAYAH regarding the "document" which Sergey Shakhray, legal adviser to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, said the day before yesterday contained information about Moscow's supplying the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine with arms for use in terrorist actions, he said: "Obviously I cannot talk about a time that goes back to the period before, or immediately after, the war. However, I can talk about the past 10-15 years. All information concerning links with terrorists should be sought in the CPSU archives." [passage omitted]

However, Kobladze emphasized that the Middle East remains among "the axes given priority in Russian intelligence activities." He denied that the reason for this could be the presence of academician Yevgeniy Primakov, the well-known expert in the region's affairs, at the head of the Russian organ. He said that the question concerns Russia's "national interests." [passage omitted]

On cooperation between the Russian and U.S. intelligence services in resolving Middle East problems, Kobladze cited "clear boundaries for such cooperation .... We did not reveal the network of our agents in the past, nor will we do so now." In this connection he described as "fabricated", the reports that Russian intelligence "handed over" its agents in Iraq to the Americans."

He said that cooperation with the CIA in combating international terrorism and the spread of nuclear technology does not rule out competition with it. He added that Russian intelligence continues to collect political, scientific, and industrial information. "It does not carry out on U.S. territory any work that U.S. intelligence does not carry out on our territory." [passage omitted]

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin Appeals to Oil Workers for Stablility

LD0206104192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1004 GMT 2 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Jun—Russian President Boris Yeltsin today appealed to oil and gas workers to stabilize operations in this branch of industry. In an address to workers, engineering and technical employees, and office workers in the complex, he expressed confidence that they would find "the opportunity and the strength to overcome the existing difficulties and to guarantee the smooth running of Russia's national economy, with the utmost support from the government."

The document notes the "critical situation" which has developed in the oil and gas industry in recent months in connection with the financial and economic position of enterprises and the increase in worker dissatisfaction over domestic disorder, increased prices, and delays in wage payments.

The appeal states that recently "demands by oil and gas workers for fuel prices to be freed have become more and more insistent." At the same time, the document also notes, "the government believes that oil and gas prices should be freed, but not immediately, instantaneously ...If prices were freed right now, that would allow a sharp leap in prices for all goods, including primary necessities and foodstuffs." Boris Yeltsin believes that "the situation in the country could get out of control as a result of such a mistake."

Yeltsin, Business Leaders Discuss Energy Policy

OW0106200592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1839 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On May 30, a conference of the government members and heads of major industrial enterprises in Kremlin, presided by President Boris Yeltsin, addressed the program of development of Russia's power production complex for the years 1992-1995, as well as the future of its branches up to the year 2000.

In his report on the package of documents regulating the development of Russia's fuel and power production complex, First Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar singled out the absence of cash, crediting, and the rigid position of Russia's Central Bank in that regard as the most immediate problems facing the Republic's industrial enterprises. Yegor Gaydar revealed that the complex branches which are experiencing an unprecedented decline urgently require at least 120 bn [billion] rubles in terms of crediting.

Russia's president pledged these resources would be allocated, yet peacemeal. As a whole, he approved of the government's measures aimed at leading the power production branches out of the crisis, assuring that the above measures would be substantiated by the head's of state decrees. The issues to be resolved include the setting up of a general control system for the entire crude oil and natural gas production complex, Russia's centralized gas supply system, as well as an introduction of state monopoly on natural gas supplies. The government also plans urgent measures to be taken to develop the newly discovered major natural gas deposits at the Yamal Peninsula, in the Barents Sea, and in the sea shelf of the Island Sakhalin. In terms of priority, Russian Federation also envisages the attraction of foreign credits amounting to $8.7 bn. The resources provided by foreign countries will be channeled to update Russia's oil industry. The Government of Russian Federation will purposefully allocate 5% worth of the oil production incomes to reimburse the above credits. The program also grants considerable privilege in taxation aimed at boosting the development of the oil and gas production complex.

The tactics and the pace of liberalization of fuel prices assumed the importance of the Conference's principal issue.

Boris Yeltsin was resolutely advocating, what he termed, "dynamic consistency in this regard", implying the "political priority of the reforms". "What is going to happen should our release of fuel prices brings the price of sausage to 500 rubles a kilogram?" inquired someone. "It cannot be otherwise".

"Despite the IMF's demand that we immediately release fuel prices, we cannot afford this, or we will lose control over the situation", Boris Yeltsin warned. People are still supporting the reforms and accord credibility to their President, he continued. Should we overstep the critical line, however, we will be in for a general collapse. The President requested to set up a group of experts and assign them by July 1 "to test all the variants", associated with the liberalization of fuel prices.

Yeltsin Decree on Demonstrations Issued

PM0106133592 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 29 May 92 p 4

[Decree No. 524 of the Russian Federation President "On the Procedure for Organizing and Holding Rallies, Marches, Demonstrations, and Pickets," dated 25 May 1992, The Kremlin, Moscow, and signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin]

[Text] In order to safeguard citizens' right to hold rallies, marches, demonstrations, and pickets, I resolve that:

1. Until the procedure for organizing and holding rallies, marches, demonstrations, and pickets is regulated by a Russian Federation law, actions should be based on the provisions of the Declaration of Human and Civil Rights and Freedoms, adopted by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet on 22 November 1991, on the right of citizens to meet freely without weapons and hold rallies, marches, demonstrations, and pickets on condition that the authorities are notified.

In accordance with the Declaration of Human and Civil Rights and Freedoms the exercise of the aforementioned right shall not violate the rights and freedoms of other individuals. This right is prohibited from being used to forcibly change the constitutional system, inflame racial, ethnic, class, and religious hatred, or propagandize violence and war.

2. Until the relevant Russian Federation law is adopted the norms of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium 28 July 1988 decree "On the Procedure for Organizing and Holding Meetings, Rallies, Marches, and Demonstrations in the USSR" will apply on the territory of the Russian Federation insofar as they do not contradict the Declaration of Human and Civil Rights and Freedoms, adopted by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet on 22 November 1991.

3. Russian Federation internal affairs organs are to implement the necessary measures to maintain public order during rallies, marches, demonstrations, and pickets, to prevent and stop illegal actions, and to ensure that any culprits are held responsible in accordance with legislation.

4. The Russian Federation Ministry of Justice, the Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Security must within a month submit a draft law on the procedure for organizing and holding rallies, marches, demonstrations, and pickets to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet as a legislative initiative.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin.

[Dated] The Kremlin, Moscow, 25 May 1992, No. 524.

Yeltsin Opens Conference on Children's Problems

LD0106152292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1325 GMT 1 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Podyapolskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 1 Jun—President Boris Yeltsin today voiced the need to draw up a list of urgent measures to help Russian children. It is children who are suffering most of all today, he said, opening a conference on children's problems taking place in the Kremlin.

Describing the acuteness of these problems, the president recalled that in the country today the birth rate is falling, child mortality is on the increase, and the ecological situation is worsening. Boris Yeltsin reported that during his recent trip to the Altay he was informed about a rise in cases of children being born with damaged skin pigmentation which has been noted there. The precise causes of this phenomenon have not been established, the president said, but there are grounds for assuming that they are connected with the nuclear tests at Semipalatinsk.

Because of the situation in the economy, we are not in a position to speak today of a comprehensive program that would fully tackle children's problems, Boris Yeltsin stated. "But neither can everything be left in such a state," he stressed. In this situation, the president said, it is necessary to concentrate on urgent measures to provide help for children.

The president noted that much will depend on the implementation of economic reform. For the time being, according to him, one cannot say that the country's economy is close to "levelling out toward stabilization". Everyone realises that a society in which docters and teachers come out on strike cannot be regarded as successful, the president said. At the same time, he voiced the view that by the end of the current year prices will begin to drop and the first signs of stabilization will begin to appear.

Chubays Appointed Deputy Prime Minister

LD0106184892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1824 GMT 1 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow June 1 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree on Monday [1 June] appointing Anatoliy Chubays Russian vice prime minister.

Chubays will also head the Russian State Property Management Committee.

Delegation to Black Sea Fleet Talks Changed

PM0106123992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 May 92 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Composition of Delegation Changed"]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has made changes to the composition of the Russian Federation state delegation for talks with Ukraine on the Black Sea Fleet formed by the Russian Federation President's 9 April 1992 decree No. 379 "On the Russian Federation state delegation for talks on the status of the Black Sea Fleet": Yuriy Yarov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, has been appointed leader of the state delegation. Ivan Shalatonov, sector chief of the Russian Federation president's state law administration, and A. Kotenkov and S. Shakhray have been withdrawn.

Grachev on Army's 'Sweeping Changes,' Threats

LD0106144192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1417 GMT 1 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow June 1 TASS—"Russia will regard the dispatch of foreign troops to neighbouring states and the build-up of troops and naval forces at its borders as a direct military threat to the Republic," Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said on Monday [1 June], speaking at the international conference "Democratisation of Society and Military Security".

The conference opened on Monday at the Academy of the General Staff, Joint Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The minister noted that factors of military threat also include the existence of powerful armed forces in some states, mobilisation possibilities and a system of their deployment close to Russian borders as well as attempts at using political and economic pressure and military blackmail against Russia.

Grachev stressed that Russia calls on all members of the international community to take mutual obligations on the non-use of military force, pledges not to use first nuclear arms or any other mass destruction weapons and favours an end to nuclear testing, improvement of nuclear and chemical weapons and stage-by-stage reduction in the strength of armies all over the world.

The economic conditions make the republic fully use the present military potential and the infrastructure of the former USSR's Armed Forces. At the same time the establishment of the Russian Army will be accompanied by sweeping changes in all aspects of its activities, Grachev noted.

In his opinion, the Russian Army and Navy will be created on the principles of high mobility and viability based on the latest achievements of military science and high professionalism of servicemen.

A system of civil control over the Army will be set up first of all. As a result, it will be free from political influence.

Plans also provide for the establishment of new operational and strategic formations resembling rapid deployment forces which will include airborne troops, military transport and Army aviation, mobile support forces and other units and formations.

These forces will be able to implement their tasks at any direction or any theatre of operations. Changes will also influence the inside structure of arms and services.

The Armed Forces will cover three stages of military reform during 6.5 years, Grachev stressed. In 1992 it is planned to create anew the Defence Ministry, the General Staff and other organs of Russian military administration and to lay down the legal basis for the activities of the Armed Forces.

The build-up of the Army and Navy, reorganisation of formations and units and the establishment of Army groups will begin in 1993 and 1994. A social programme for servicemen, transition to a mixed system of manning the Army and the introduction of an alternative service will be carried out simultaneously.

Drastic structural changes will take place in the Armed Forces in 1995-1999. Grachev confirmed earlier initiatives providing for a 700,000 reduction of the Russian Army by 1995 and a reduction by another 600,000 by the year 2000.

The minister concluded by saying that the military leadership plans to slash drastically orders for weapons and combat materiel and to switch to tenders in selecting research and design works.

He stressed that the military leadership "will be guided by real economic conditions in the Republic while forming the Russian Armed Forces and equipping them with modern weaponry".

'Defense Sufficiency' To Govern Policy

OW3105161792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1538 GMT 31 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia has neither an external enemy nor the need to build powerful strike groupings on its borders, Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev declared. Speaking on Channel I of the Ostankino TV and radio compnay on Sunday [31 May], he noted that Russia's new military doctrine will be based on the principles of defence sufficiency and high manouevrability of the troops.

Rapid-deployment forces possessing modern weapons must become the backbone of the Russian armed forces, he said.

Restructuring will mostly affect the land forces, whereas the Navy and the Air Force will hardly undergo any serious changes so far.

Pavel Grachev expressed the opinion that the appointment of a civilian person to the post of defence minister was mere fashion an that during the dramatic transitional period the post of defence minister should be occupied by a military man. He motivated his statement by the problems of withdrawing troops from the Baltic repuiblics, from Transcaucasia and from a number of other regions of the former Union, and of their life in Russia which only a military man can tackle. He also said that a civilian person will find it difficult to exercise control over the troops. Psychologically, the army personnel is unprepared for receiving orders from a civilian person, he said.

Speaking about the conflict in the Dniester region and about the future of the 14th army located there he assured that "the order to keep neutral has been issued". He said that the talks on settling the Dniester conflict and on the future of the 14th Army between the foreign ministers of Russia and Moldova will begin on Monday or Tuesday.

He denied reports about the transfer of armaments to Moldova. He said that in principle this was quite possible only after the internal conflict is settled in this republic.

He noted that the supplies of armoured vehicles and armaments from Romania to Moldova "are fanning undesirable tensions and involving Bucharest in the internal conflict of a sovereign state".

Grachev did not agree that Ukraine had appropriated three military districts equipped with modern weapons and facilities. This is what Byelarus, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan have done. "A bad example is very catching," he said. "In Azerbaijan, gangs have captured 60 to 70 per cent of the military equipment and armaments belonging to the 4th army located in the republic," he said.

Speaking about the schedule of withdrawing troops from the Baltic republics, he said that they will be withdrawn following the removal of the army units of the Northern and Western groups, i.e. not earlier than the end of 1994. "I cannot allow people to arrive at an empty place," he said. He noted, at the same time, that he was ready" to remove the troops tomorrow if the Baltic states give Russia financial assistance in equipping new places of permanent dislocation".

Military Doctrine Formation Predicted

LD3005144492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1435 GMT 30 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow May 30 TASS—Participants in the four-day conference "Military Security of Russia" that ended in Moscow on Saturday [30 May] discussed Russia's future military doctrine and armed forces.

The conference was attended by the Russian and CIS top military, chiefs of the general staffs of the CIS states and representatives of the military-industrial complex.

Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said a draft new military doctrine will be submitted to Russian President Boris Yeltsin by July 1, 1992 and a concept of Russian Army by September 1.

The reformation of the Russian Army is expected to be completed within six to eight years. The reform will consist of three stages. The first stage includes the creation of the Russian Defence Ministry. During the second stage, which will last two to three years, all Russian troops will be pulled out from former socialist countries. The Russian Armed Forces will consist of about 2.1 million troops by 1995. The final stage envisages the withdrawal of Russian troops from former Soviet republics and further reduction of the armed forces to 1.5 million troops.

During the transitional period, the strategic nuclear forces will remain under control of the CIS Joint Armed Forces command, Grachev said.

Grachev emphasised that the Russian Armed Forces will be based on "mobile defense along the perimeter". Such concept provides for creating "rapid deployment forces", comprising air-borne and some motorized rifle units, and marines.

Yeltsin Choice of Defense Minister Viewed

PM2205123592 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 May 92 p 2

[Report by Viktor Baranets: "General Grachev's Star in Ascendant. Russian Defense Minister. Vacancy Filled"]

[Text] Army General Pavel Grachev, Hero of the Soviet Union, has been appointed Russian Federation defense minister. His star is in the ascendant, because to receive such a high military rank and the chief post in the Army at the age of 44 almost simultaneously is a gigantic leap for a military man. Grachev's appointment encompasses several most important political, military, and moral aspects. The lengthy conversations about a civilian defense minister have now run out of steam. By giving preference to a military man as minister, the Russian president has thereby let everyone know that the new Russian Army must be led by a "total" professional in the initial phase of its organization. By entrusting Grachev with his ministerial portfolio at such a difficult period for the Russian Armed Forces, Yeltsin has demonstrated not only the ability to "share power" in the interests of the cause, but has once again affirmed his complete confidence in a man whom he has taken to the very top of the service ladder, highly valuing his personal loyalty. Although, as some observers note, there is also possibly a hidden maneuver here—to shift responsibility for the state of affairs in the Russian Army almost entirely onto a new minister and thereby to considerably reduce the intensity of the critical salvoes aimed at himself.

Grachev has taken over the Russian Armed Forces at a critical period for them: the grave crisis in the social welfare sphere, the vagueness of the status of Russian troops in nearby foreign parts, the commotion in Moldova, the frenzied throwing out of our units from the Baltic region, the daily seizures of weapons and combat equipment in hot spots, the ferment in the officers' ranks because of the almost "wholesale" cuts...And this is just a small proportion of the most acute problems. You cannot envy the new minister. When a journalist asked "What does it feel like to be a minister?" Grachev replied:

"Like being in a ruined house..."

Yes, he is decisive, businesslike, energetic, and demanding. For the time being he will find things a bit more complex as regards a global vision of ways of resolving the sum total of problems. And here I think that it is extremely important who he will select for the key roles in his team, especially as chief of the General Staff. Many military men believe that Grachev would be wise to entrust this post to an "old hand" analytical staff officer, who would in some way compensate for the young minister's lack of experience.

Grachev's biography contains a page which newspapers "prostituting themselves" to the needs of the new propaganda from time to time spotlight. Specifically, we are talking about Grachev's actions 19-21 August last year. It is written of him that initially he conscientiously carried out Yazov's order to lead the airborne assault troops, but then, when the situation started to change, turned from the "blockader" of the "White House" into its defender. Grachev does not like to talk about this subject.

"It's nonsense," he said recently. He added meaningfully, with a smile: "Somebody is confusing the 'White House' with the Kremlin...."

The Afghan War, in which he served two tours, occupies a special place in his life. He showed himself to be a tireless commander. His division gave the dushmans a good hiding. People say that they put a fantastic price on his head. Grachev's combat record combined with a deadly grasp of his business, his direct and decent character, and his aversion to palace intrigues—all this is valued in him by many thousands of officers. That is no small thing for a minister.

Shokhin Predicts 3.5 Million Jobless by 1993

OW0206110992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1030 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the most optimistic forecasts of the Russian Employment Committee, there will be about 3.5 million jobless in the country by the end of the year. Almost 7 million are expected to turn to labor exchanges during the year, says Vice-Premier and Labor Minister Aleksandr Shokhin. Pessimistic forecasts say 14 million people will be thrown into the labor market. However, Mr. Shokhin told IF [INTERFAX], half of these people will find jobs through the exchange or on their own.

Which of the forecasts comes true depends on the government strategy. If it permits mass bankruptcy and closure of companies, large-scale unemployment is inevitable. If fiscal discipline is slackened and employment is kept at the present level, inflation will soar.

A program of curbing the growth of unemployment is being drawn to keep it at the level of 6 to 7 million which amounts to 10% of the able-bodied population, the labor minister announced. The rate which is typical of many industrialized countries implies that the government should pursue an active labor policy of retraining employees, opening new jobs and organizing public works.

IF's note: According to the Employment Committee, the number of registered jobless increased from 62,000 last December to 151,000 last April. Demand for employees dropped from 882,000 last December to 451,000 last March.

Energy Administration To Undergo Serious Change

OW0106220992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1937 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian parliament's experts say they hope that in the wake of the appointment of the "Gazprom" concern chief Viktor Chernomyrdyn as Russia's Vice-Premier the fuel and energy complex would overcome the crisis. They said that against the background of general economic recession the gas industry has shown stable performance so far. Besides, they believe that the industrial lobby in parliament would support Chernomyrdin, who, in contrast to dismissed Vladimir Lopukhin, is regarded as "one of ours".

Most experts of the "Rosneftegaz" state corporation believe that in the near future the fuel and energy complex will undergo serious structural changes increasing centralization.

The most likely option would be to eliminate the fuel and energy ministry to replace it with a Bureau for the Fuel and Energy Complex, a structure that existed in the Ryzhkov and Pavlov cabinets. The bureau would control the renewed energy ministry and atomic energy ministry.

As for the oil, gas and coal industries, they are most likely to be run by government joint stock companies or societies having tough centralized control. Chernomyrdin had long sought the conversion of gas industries into joint stock ones, with no success, though.

Experts do not rule out that a similar scheme would be develped for the oil industry. In that case most of them, as well as the executives of the oil industry committee of the current fuel and energy ministry and of the state company "Rosneftegaz" will merge.

Shumeyko Proposes Industry Management Changes

LD0106102792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0836 GMT 1 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow, 1 Jun—Vladimir Shumeyko, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, has forwarded his proposals for reforming the work of the government to the Russian president. The gist of the proposals, he said in an ITAR-TASS interview, consists of changes to the structure of industry management.

In his view, the privatization of large enterprises will take decades, so it is necessary in the very near future, "without changing forms of ownership, to help the enterprises enter the market: If the state cannot give industry complete equipment [kompektatsiya] and materials, it must give entrepreneurial freedom to the labor collectives."

He was supported by Sergey Filatov, first deputy chairman of the Russian parliament, who said that in order to switch the enterprises to market conditions, "we need not only solid investment but also an enormous organizational effort, but the government has no such resources."

Intelligence Operations at Home, Abroad Cited

PM0206103592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 28 May 92

[Video report by V. Perfilyev and A. Vaskin; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Perfilyev over video of news conference] Journalists' work is in some respects akin to the work of intelligence officers. Perhaps this is the reason why it was so interesting to observe how the professional interests of the press were being curbed no less professionally by the deputy chief of the Intelligence Service at a briefing given today by General Vyacheslav Trubnikov, first deputy director of the Russian Intelligence Service.

This is quite understandable. What kind of intelligence service would it be if there were no secrets?

Still, Intelligence Service briefings in themselves are a new feature in our lives. And the journalists did receive some information. For example, it became known that Russian residencies are being closed down in dozens of countries, and that up to 30 percent of intelligence officers have already returned home. The number of intelligence officers in the central apparatus is also being cut back.

Another special feature of intelligence service work is that, like everything in our world, it is being integrated.

[Trubnikov to camera] We are looking for areas of cooperation and, indeed, have contacts with our colleagues on all continents except Australia and Antarctica, and that includes colleagues in the CIA. Combating illegal drug trafficking and organized crime and tracking down the ties between underworld structures, between mafia structures inside our country and their foreign partners, if partners is the right word—all this is today part of the job of Russia's foreign intelligence service. [video shows news conference]

Service 'Poorly Funded'

MK2905130292 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 May 92 p 1

[Andrey Poleshchuk report under the "Special Services" rubric: "Russian Intelligence Service Cuts Agents. Admittedly Without Saying Precisely Where"]

[Text] At yesterday's scheduled briefing given by the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service [FIS] Press Office at the Russian Foreign Ministry press center,journalists were introduced to 48-year-old Lieutenant General Vyacheslav Trubnikov, FIS first deputy director.

He said that the Russian intelligence service is actively optimizing its central apparatus and agent networks abroad. "Today we are trying to confine ourselves to the level of reasonable sufficiency," Vyacheslav Trubnikov stressed. "The cuts in the central apparatus have affected roughly 30 percent of our personnel. About the same number have returned from abroad. We already have shut down dozens of agent networks abroad, and this process will continue until the end of the year."

Lt. Gen. Trubnikov did not name the countries which now have no Russian intelligence officers, but he did say that he was referring to regions where Russia now has minimal clout.

In his opinion, the cuts in the FIS staff are directly dependent on state funding of intelligence work. "We are poorly funded," he admitted. When your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent asked him to reveal the size of the FIS budget, he received the following answer: "I don't want to do that today. But the size of our budget will be revealed shortly. However, I assure you that the figures will not give you much of an idea of our position."

"Some FIS personnel have received an invitation to work for the intelligence structures of other CIS republics, including Ukraine," Lt. Gen. Trubnikov said. "It is up to them to decide what to do now."

Vyacheslav Trubnikov assured journalists that the FIS is keeping strictly to the agreements reached by the CIS intelligence services and is not operating in the CIS republics. Moreover, virtually all the former USSR's republics, barring Georgia, Azerbaijan, and, of course, the Baltic states, now avail themselves of FIS information.

In Lt. Gen. Trubnikov's opinion, it is too early to talk about the FIS cooperating fully with Western intelligence services, including those of the United States. "Cooperation presupposes an atmosphere of trust. Regrettably, our efforts at compromise are still not meeting with a fitting response from the Americans. For instance, they have not responded to our proposals to introduce new rules of play in the relations between our organizations," he said.

The FIS first deputy director believes that the "new rules of play" should both preclude moral and psychological pressure on intelligence officers and members of their families and uphold their honor and dignity. "There have been instances of a very tough approach being taken toward our personnel, and even their children have been involved in the recruitment of intelligence agents," he remarked.

Vyacheslav Trubnikov did not confirm or deny rumors about FIS Director Yevgeniy Primakov's impending resignation. "I am accustomed to dealing with reliable information. I am not privy to this information," he stressed.

Bank Chairman, Deputy Resign Over Rate Dispute

LD0106161792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1457 GMT 1 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Aleksey Tabachnikov]

[Text] Moscow June 1 TASS—Disagreements with the leaders of the Russian parliament were the main reason for the resignation of Georgiy Matyukhin, the chairman of Central Bank of Russia, and of his deputy Vladimir Rasskazov.

Matyukhin told reporters on Monday [1 June], after announcing his resignation at a meeting of the parliamentary Presidium which discussed a report of the Central Bank, that the decision was a protest against the demands to reduce the interest rate from 80 to 50 per cent. Besides, Matyukhin criticised the Budgetary and Planning Commission of the parliament for a policy aimed against the Central Bank and added a baiting campaign in the press also contributed to the decision.

"My decision to resign is final in the present-day conditions," Matyukhin said.

The leadership of the Central Bank can work and bear responsibility until it is supported by the parliament to which it is subordinated, Rasskazov added. "We do not feel such a support nowadays," the deputy said.

Parliamentary 'Pressure' Cited

OW0106121292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1110 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The resignation of the Fuel and Energy Minister Vladimir Lopuhin is the result of pressure on the President from the Parliamentary opposition, the RF Cabinet's Economic Adviser Alexey Ulyukayev has said in a conversation with an "IF" [INTERFAX] correspondent. The political factions in the Supreme Soviet and senior industrial managers have long been dissatisfied with the Minister's policy, he remarked, although Mr. Lopukhin's positions in the government have been rather strong.

The Vice-Premier Victor Chernomyrdin, appointed on Saturday [30 May], has been asked to supervise the industry. In Mr. Ulyukayev's words, that request is not a temporary measure.

Yavlinskiy Calls For Course Change in Reform

AU0206110692 Duesseldorf WIRTSCHAFTSWOCHE in German 29 May 92 p 46

[Interview with Russian reform economist Grigoriy Yavlinskiy by Hans Jakob Ginsburg; place and date not given: "Very Creative"]

[Text] [Ginsburg] Mr. Yavlinskiy, what do you think of the Russian Government's economic policy?

[Yavlinskiy] Liberalization has brought some positive results. But just look at what is really going on in Moscow today: The government says there is a market economy. In reality, there is a long line in front of a beer shop, one person buys all the beer and then sells it at a higher price to the people at the back of the line. Okay—all people buy and sell something, but this is no market!

[Ginsburg] You do not like the whole direction of things?

[Yavlinskiy] One can judge our government in line with two criteria. First, for the first time in more than 70 years Russia has a government that has not set itself the goal of building up communism. Therefore, everyone who hoped for such a change must support Yeltsin's government—for religious reasons, so to speak. However, if I have to assess the government's economic policy as an expert, I see that its policy of stabilization is failing, that inflation and budget deficit are very high. The liberalization of prices has failed because of the state-owned monopolies; control over monetary policy has largely been lost. How should it be different—with one currency on the territory of the former Soviet Union, but with 15 governments, 15 budgets, and 15 state banks?

[Ginsburg] The big question: What can be done?

[Yavlinskiy] If we really want to have several states with a common currency, we need agreement—or better: a common central bank, which is independent of all governments. We must agree on combating inflation, on a privatization program, and on a common price reform. Flags and constitutions are very nice—but the politicians of the Commonwealth of Independent States keep forgetting how important the economy is.

[Ginsburg] Are you afraid of a disaster?

[Yavlinskiy] We are threatened with four disasters every year: winter, spring, summer, and autumn—because of our crazy agricultural system. We must privatize agriculture quickly, this is more important than all the talk about transportation routes, storage, etc. However, the opponents of such a land reform have blocked much in parliament.

[Ginsburg] Why is privatization so slow in general?

[Yavlinskiy] What does privatization mean in our country? First of all, very small things: a restaurant, a

barber's shop, perhaps simply only a truck. And this all over the country. In the past we had ministries for all the various industries and a price authority—they regulated everything. Shops were simply windows with sales premises behind—without their own bank account, without any economic knowledge. In the morning goods were delivered, in the evening someone from the bank came and picked up the money. One cannot liberalize this system by releasing the prices without changing property conditions!

[Ginsburg] Why does the Yeltsin government make such mistakes, in your view? Because it lacks knowledge or intentionally?

[Yavlinskiy] First of all, the problem are the Russian politicians. Then, of course also the foreigners—the IMF and the Europeans, who do not urge a sensible policy in Moscow. They should at least say what the right course would be. Then the politicians could still answer that they are not following this course out of fear of the political consequences.

[Ginsburg] Privatization is impossible without new owners of state companies. Where do you want to find those?

[Yavlinskiy] After all, 300 million people lived in the former USSR....

[Ginsburg] ...without money....

[Yavlinskiy] The state is not supposed to get any fiscal profit out of privatization. One can sell everything at a symbolic price.

[Ginsburg] Are there enough potential entrepreneurs after 74 years of communism?

[Yavlinskiy] Whoever was able to survive in the Soviet Union had to be a good entrepreneur for all of his life. Whoever needed a glass of water had to develop entrepreneurial qualities. And whoever wants to come to terms with the fact that prices are twenty times higher within one month, must be a very creative person in economic terms. Our goal need not be that each entrepreneur in our country is as good as in your country. There will be many failures, but there will also be many successes—as soon as things finally get started.

Supreme Soviet

Presidium Discusses Bills on Intelligence

LD0106203792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1738 GMT 1 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Galina Vinitskaya]

[Text] Moscow June 1 TASS—Sergey Stepashin, chairman of the Russian parliamentary Committee on Defence and Security, submitted on Monday [1 June] two lawbills for the discussion at a meeting of the parliamentary Presidium.

Outlining the main provisions of the first document called "On Foreign Intelligence of the Russian Federation," Stepashin said positive changes in the world transfrom intelligence from an instrument of contraposition of states into a means of national control over the implementation of international agreements.

The lawbill bans intelligence activities aimed at antihumane and illegal goals. The methods and means used by foreign intelligence should not infringe on the rights and freedoms of citizens.

A special chapter of the document dwells on parliamentary and prosecutor's control over intelligence activities.

The second lawbill called "On Federal Security Bodies" is necessary as legislative norms never spread to security activities in this country, according to Stepashin. The document envisages a mechanism of control over security bodies by the parliament, the president and the prosecutor's office which provides solid guarantees against human rights violations.

The Presidium also discussed a lawbill "On State Service Replacing Military Service (Alternative Service)."

Parliamentary Control Established

OW0106212692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1935 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The presidium of the Russian parliament discussed Monday [1 June] draft laws on external intelligence and federal security bodies.

The draft law on foreign intelligence confirms the principle of banning foreign intelligence activities which have antihumane purposes and infringe upon rights and freedoms of citizens. It establishes parliametary control over the foreign intelligence bodies. These bodies should present reports on their activities and spending annually at the parliament's meetings behind closed doors. Strictly confidential issues will be considered by a special parliamentary commission, members of which should sign a statement saying that they will not divulge state secrets.

A report of the parliamentary committee on defense and security says that the draft law on federal security bodies reduces to a minimum administrative powers the use of which "would unfairly limit the rights and freedoms of citizens".

'Confrontation' in Air at 27 May Session

PM0106092092 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 May 92 First Edition p 1

[Report by parliamentary observer Robert Minasov from the White House under the rubric "Fourth Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Session": "Specter of Confrontation Is Abroad"]

[Excerpts] The afternoon session of the Soviet of the Republic 27 May began with a discussion of the report by Igor Muravyev, deputy chairman of the Committee

for Questions of the Work of Soviets of People's Deputies and the Development of Self-Government, on the draft law "On Amendments and Additions to the Law 'On Elections of People's Deputies of Local Soviets of People's Deputies of the RSFSR.'"

The need for amendments arose in connection with the fact that because of the decline in political activeness among the population, several by-elections of people's deputies have failed to produce a result.

It is proposed that Section 3 of Article 51 should read: "Candidate deputies who have received in the election the largest number of votes from voters taking part in the ballot, but not less than 25 percent of the number of citizens on the electoral register, are deemed elected. In the event that a single candidate deputy runs for a given electoral district, he is deemed elected if he receives more than half the votes of voters taking part in the ballot, but not less than 25 percent of the number of citizens on the electoral register...."

Other amendments and additions will enable soviets at various levels and the corresponding electoral commissions for districts where elections have been held and proved invalid or failed to produce a result, to set the date for repeat elections themselves, on the basis of local conditions, but not later than 12 months following the election that failed to produce a result. After a brief debate the draft law was adopted at the first reading.

Heated polemics flared up in the course of the discussion of the Supreme Soviet additional expenditure estimate, which deputies were told about by Aleksandr Pochinok, chairman of the Committee for the Budget, Plans, Taxes, and Prices.

A noteworthy episode occurred during the discussion of this question. Nikolay Ryabov, chairman of the Soviet of the Republic, stated that the Supreme Soviet does not conceal from all Russia the expenditure on maintaining itself. But no precise data have yet been received from the president and government concerning expenditure on their structures. The material on the additional expenditure estimate, issued only to people's deputies, is marked: "Not for the press, to be returned."

The results of the debate were supposedly summed up by Sergey Filatov, who answered a number of questions from deputies. Sergey Aleksandrovich noted that it is necessary, on the one hand, to economize, and on the other, to ensure that parliamentarians are able to work. The estimate was approved.

A report on the draft Law "On Notaries" was delivered by Justice Minister Nikolay Fedorov. [passage omitted]

Parliament adopted the draft law at the first reading.

The draft "Fundamentals of Russian Federation Legislation on Culture" were presented by Fedor Polenov, chairman of the Culture Commission.

The well-known movie director and actor Nikita Mikhalkov spoke in support of this document. The main thesis of his speech was that culture needs protection. The draft law was adopted at the first reading.

An account of the 28 May morning joint session of the Supreme Soviet might well be devoted entirely to the "warming-up period," since the deputies "ate up" two-thirds of the time by persistently trying to add to the already packed agenda. [passage omitted]

Mikhail Chelnokov pointed out that parliament is ignoring its own decisions. For instance, the Supreme Soviet decided two weeks ago that a government report on the socioeconomic situation in our society must be heard every two weeks, but this is not happening. He insisted that the Supreme Soviet should in the next few days hear, if not a report, at least a government briefing, and at first hand—from Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin.

Keen attention was paid to the question of the activity of the leaders of the Central Bank of Russia, which, as Ruslan Khasbulatov put it, takes absolutely no notice of the country's highest legislative body. According to a briefing from the Supreme Soviet chairman, the question of relieving Rasskazov of his post as deputy chairman of the Central Bank of Russia has already been decided at a Supreme Soviet Presidium session, but the fate of Matyukhin, chairman of the Central Bank board, will be decided after his report to parliament.

In Yevgeniy Tarasov's opinion, in connection with the president's recent statements, the need has arisen to have things out with Boris Nikolayevich. Vladimir Kuznetsov demanded that a report be heard on the reasons for the nonfulfillment of presidential decree No. 1 on education. Sergey Polozkov expressed dissatisfaction that the government has yet to submit to parliament a program for adjustments to economic reform, although it was instructed to do this by 20 May.

The chairman of the Soviet of the Republic proposed that two substantial questions be added to the agenda—on the organization and activity of deputies' groups, factions, and blocs, and on the compliance of certain directives and acts of the Supreme Soviet chairman and his first deputy with legislative norms. This was supported by the majority of parliament.

The deputies intend to come back to the extremely acute situation in South and North Ossetia, and Ruslan Khasbulatov expressed the conviction that it is time to act more resolutely and firmly.

By a majority of votes, parliament banned the government from increasing prices of energy sources without consulting it. Thus another source of exacerbation of relations between the Supreme Soviet and government arose.

It was only half an hour before the first break that the deputies embarked on the discussion of the draft law "On Deliveries of Products and Goods for State Needs," at the second reading. A report was delivered by Alvin Yeremin, chairman of the Committee for Questions of

Industry and Power Generation. The president's amendments were defended by Andrey Nechayev, minister of economics. [passage omitted]

The law was adopted.

Abdulatipov, Ryabov Criticism of Press Viewed

PM0106162192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 May 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Sergey Chugayev: "New Round of Clashes Between Russia's Executive and Legislative Power. President Hits Out at Congress, and Leaders of Parliament Hit Independent Press"]

[Text] The chairmen of the Russian Supreme Soviet's chambers—R. Abdulatipov and N. Ryabov—were unable to maintain for long the even and correct tone, as had obviously been the original intention, of the news conference which they held in the White House 27 May. After speaking rather cursorily about parliament's activity since the Congress—the theme of the news conference—both speakers proceeded to assess the media coverage of parliamentary life, and as a result the discussion assumed the nature of a berating of journalists and threats against the press, radio, and television.

The behavior of the chambers' chairmen at the news conference came as no surprise. It was entirely consonant with the profound crisis in which Russia's top legislative organ—and its leadership above all—finds itself today. Confirmation of this can be provided by the constant demands from groups of deputies to investigate the activity of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The situation had been exacerbated by the interview with B. Yeltsin which KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA had carried on that same day, in which the president had for the first time officially called the Congress and the Supreme Soviet a "brake." The suggestion which Abdulatipov made in this connection—to regard as official only those words of the president which he spoke at the Congress and not to take any notice of everything said later—can hardly be viewed as a constructive stand by the parliamentary leadership. The hint by the chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities that it might be possible for far from all Russian territories to participate in the referendum appeared more weighty. In any case, however, the extremely difficult position in which the Russian parliament, torn by internal contradictions, finds itself following the president's statement is obvious.

Therefore the accusations which Ryabov, chairman of the Soviet of the Republic, leveled at the mass media appeared logical in their own way. A similar atmosphere reigned in the Union parliament a year ago. Only Ryabov's proposal to consider the president and, at the same time, the leaders of parliament symbols of statehood and, consequently, to regard criticism of them as an infringement of state foundations proved original and so aroused interest.

In other respects the accusations against the press boiled down to the well-known theses that it discredits representative power by fulfilling some political demand and sets the people against the parliament.

Unfortunately, while accusing journalists of being immoral and disregarding the norms of morality, Ryabov was unable to set them an example worthy of emulation. Thus, he accused IZVESTIYA of fulfilling the instructions of some "center." But he was unable to answer a question as to what kind of center this is. After enumerating the standard range of accusations being made against IZVESTIYA following the editorial board's court case against the speaker of parliament, he did not even attempt to substantiate any of them in a well-reasoned manner.

But the chief sensation was created by Ryabov's statement that Deputies G. Yakunin and L. Ponomarev had passed to the United States state secrets of huge importance. When journalists inquired how deputies who have not traveled over the ocean could have done this, it turned out that what Ryabov had in mind was articles in the Russian press about the activity of the parliamentary commission headed by Yakunin and Ponomarev to investigate the case of the State Committee for the State of Emergency. These articles cited secret archive documents which Americans might well have seen.

But the situation is not so amusing as it seems at first sight, if you consider that Yakunin and Ponomarev are two of the initiators of the deputies' demand for an investigation into the activity of the Supreme Soviet Presidium. It has come to light that right after the statement by this group of deputies the presidium of parliament sent a request to the Ministry of Security for the activities of Yakunin and Ponomarev, while they are the leaders of the parliamentary commission to investigate the circumstances of the August putsch, to conform with existing legislation. They received the reply that, since the Union law on keeping state secrets still applies in Russia, there have been violations. Thus, the incident at the news confere .ce gives an idea not so much of the level of the chairman of the chamber as of the level of rights generally in the Russian parliament.

Regional Affairs

Chechen Republic Warns Neigboring Dagestan

OW0106221092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1937 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The official news agency "Chechenpress" of Chechen-Ingush expressed its concern over the situation in Dagestan neighboring Chechen-Ingush. The statement issued by this agency states that "for a long time Dagestan is pursuing a policy of clear violation of rights and freedoms of Chechen people living in this republic". Besides large military forces are drawn to Dagestan and their main part is concentrated along Chechen-Ingush's borders. The vessels of the Caspian military flotilla came

to Dagestan's coasts. "Actually a military stronghold against independent Chechen-Ingush is being formed there", "Chechenpress" underlines.

The statement mentions a high activity of special services which regularly hold their secret meetings in Makhachkala. These preparations are vivid indications of development of a wide-scale provocation with the aim to confront the peoples of Dagestan and to involve Chechen-Ingush in this conflict, the statement says. "Chechenpress" warns that the Russian special services and Dagestan's authorities will carry the responsibility for this provocation if it is implemented.

Chechens Will Be Protected

LD0206093792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 0937 GMT 2 Jun 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Groznyy—Chechen people will take all measures to protect the Chechens living in Dagestan from the Karabakh scheme. This declaration was featured in the statement of the Chechen republic leadership circulated on June 1 by the state-run news agency CHECHEN PRESS. The statement reads that the latest situation in Dagestan aroused deep concern of the Chechen people. The policy of uncovered violation of Dagestan Chechens' human rights has been pursued for a long period of time. The statement further reads that major military forces were brought to Dagestan, a considerable part of them concentrated near the border with Checheniya and places of residence of Akkin Chechens. Chechen leaders state that military ships of the Caspian fleet were moved to the same place. According to leaders of the Chechen Republic, the purpose of this action was to add pressure upon the Chechen Republic and threaten the peoples of Dagestan. On the other hand, this was meant to set up a military outpost against the independent Chechen Republic. The statement also reads that Russian secret service on a regular basis hold secret conferences in Makhachkala to prepare an action of scale, like the ones organized in Karabakh and Moldova. Chechen leaders believe that the purpose of these actions is to cause clashes between Dagestan peoples, drag the Chechen Republic in this conflict and prevent Dagestan from removing the yoke of colonialism. Leaders of the republic note that in case of such provocation all responsibility will rest with Russian secret services and Dagestan authorities whose complete inaction allowed preparations for such activities.

Official on Lack of Progress in Russian Talks

OW0106220192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1937 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chechen-Ingush's chief expert at negotiations with Russia on future relations, Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, has said that as long as Moscow refuses to recognize the independence of the Chechen-Ingush republic, it will make no sense to have talks on other issues on the agenda. He was speaking at a news conference in Groznyy following Russian-Chechen consultations held near Moscow at the end of last week.

Chechen-Ingush does not accept Russia's idea of a transitional period, during which the republic should stay within the federation, Yandarbiyev said. "In our republic we have already established all the institutions an independent state has", Yandarbiyev said.

At the same time he pointed out that the doors to more consultations remained open. He said that Chechen-Ingush was prepared for another meeting in Groznyy, Pyatigorsk or any other city. The chief Chechen delegate said he hoped that Russia would be able "to understand and accept the position of the Chechen side, in particular, when it came to the recognition of its political independence."

Dudayev Criticizes Abkhazian Parliament Actions

LD0206104492 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 0937 GMT 2 Jun 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Groznyy—Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev: The unjustified actions taken by Chairman of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet Vladislav Ardzinba may result in unforeseen consequences. Dzhokhar Dudayev made this statement on May 29 in an interview to the editor-in-chief of the SAKARTVELOS CHIS KVESH (UNDER THE GEORGIAN SKY) newspaper. The editorial board of the newspaper has, following the overthrow of Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, moved from Tbilisi to Sukhumi and is currently notable for its open support for the ex-president and calls for his return to the republic. Dzhokhar Dudayev's statement has disturbed both political leaders and ordinary people of Abkhazia as the Chechen president had previously supported the policies pursued by the Abkhazian leadership.

North Ossetia Asks for Moscow Intervention

OW0106182592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speakers at an enlarged session of the presidium of parliament, government and defense council of North Ossetia have called for early talks among Russia, North Ossetia and South Ossetia, as well as Georgia and Armenia on a settlement in the Tskhinvali area. The session held in Vladikavkaz on Monday [1 June] also discussed the possibility of lifting North Ossetia's blockade from the Military-Georgian highway and a gas pipe-line to Georgia and measures to promote the return of thousands of Ossetian refugees to Georgia and their safety.

The participants in the session reportedly expressed the hope that the Russian leaders, acting in line with the principles of the federative treaty, would give a balanced political evaluation to the worsening of relations

between South Ossetia and Georgia and take crucial measures to prevent the armed conflict from spreading to the Russian Federation.

North Ossetian Supreme Soviet Head Interviewed

MK0106113292 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 May 92 p 3

[Interview with Galazov, chairman of North Ossetian Supreme Soviet, by NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent Igor Terekhov--place and date not given--under general headline: "Georgian Delegation in North Ossetia, Russian Delegation in South Ossetia"]

[Text] [Terekhov] You are the chairman of North Ossetia's Self-Defense Committee. Will North Ossetia's armed formations be brought into the Tskhinvali region?

[Galazov] Our armed formations will not be brought into the South Ossetian Republic. In order to defend itself South Ossetia must fully deploy its militia units and set up its own internal troops. Most importantly, the heads of state and the parliaments to whom the North Ossetian Supreme Soviet appealed should heed the voice of South Ossetia. I think it necessary for CIS troops or UN "blue berets" to be brought into South Ossetia right away until the situation there stabilizes. There is no other alternative.

[Terekhov] What can you tell us about the Russian leadership's stance on the Ossetian-Georgian conflict?

[Galazov] The Third and Fifth Congresses of People's Deputies adopted special resolutions on South Ossetia, and the Russian Government has also issued corresponding directives. But the Georgians are failing to take account of these decisions. To be perfectly frank, we have a real war here, which must attract the attention of the Russian and CIS leaders. This small people is unable to put an end to the conflict on its own. An intermediary is needed to resolve it. South and North Ossetia can see no other intermediary than Russia. Furthermore, South Ossetia has held two referendums—the first on preserving the Union, while in the second the whole population of South Ossetia voted in favor of Russia taking South Ossetia under its jurisdiction. Ultimately , as far as the people's right to self-determination is concerned, the people have made their choice. Needless to say, it is hard for Russia because it is a question of interfering in another state's affairs, in this case Georgia. I am not saying that the two Ossetias should unite today, but the Republic of South Ossetia must be recognized.

[Terekhov] What are the prospects for talks with Georgia?

[Galazov] I think that they should be held in several stages. First, a cease-fire must be reached on both sides, safe conditions created for refugees to return to their homes, and South Ossetia's national economy, ravaged by war and natural disaster (remember last year's earthquake?), restored. And, finally, the South Ossetian republic must be recognized.

I would make no reference at all during the first stage to the state that this republic will join. If the situation normalizes, I do not think that South Ossetia's leaders and its people will persist in being stubborn about whom they join: Russia or Georgia.

International Affairs

Yemeni Foreign Minister Continues Talks

LD3005011392 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1436 GMT 29 May 92

[By Ukrinform correspondent Oleksiy Petrunya]

[Text] Kiev, 29 May—"During the negotiations we reached good results. I look at our future relations with great optimism," said 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, state minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Yemen, to the UKRINFORM correspondent. He held fruitful meetings and negotiations in the capital of Ukraine on 28-29 May. The minister was received by Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk. He had talks with Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko and at the ministries of defense, education, foreign economic relations and trade.

"Our delegation's visit to Ukraine indicates that Yemen is striving for continuing good and mutually beneficial contacts which began as far back as during the existence of the Soviet Union," noted 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali. "The Republic of Yemen was one of the first countries to recognize Ukraine's independence. We established diplomatic relations on 21 April this year. I believe that cooperation between our countries will be mutually beneficial and not directed against other states and will serve the cause of strengthening peace."

The first stage of our cooperation, the minister stressed, will be a continuation of links which have already been formed. In the second stage, we will deepen them on an interstate basis. I believe, he said, that our countries have a good future in putting into reality joint projects. Yemen is interested in Ukraine's experience in developing industry, agriculture and oil extraction.

When answering questions, the minister said that issues of purchasing weapons from Ukraine and delivering oil from Yemen had not been discussed yet. Special delegations of experts will be dealing with that.

"We believe that Ukraine is a great country with a developed industry and scientific and cultural potential," the minister said, "I am certain that in the near future the star of Ukraine will shine on the international horizon."

Cites Plans for Embassy

AU3005163492 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk has expressed the mutual intention to raise the relations between Ukraine and Yemen to a qualitatively new level. On 28 May he received Yemeni Minister of State for Foreign Affairs 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali. In the course of a conversation, Kravchuk stressed the Ukraine leadership's interest in developing closer ties with Near Eastern countries in various spheres. It is now necessary to put this on a corresponding international legal basis, he stressed.

Al-Dali conveyed Kravchuk a verbal message from 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, head of the Yemen Republic, with best wished for Ukraine in connection with its independence. Al-Dali said his country intends to open an embassy in Ukraine.

Mongolia's Foreign Minister Visits Kiev

LD0206104992 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] A delegation of Mongolia headed by the foreign minister of that country, Tserenpiliyn Gombosuren, is paying an official visit to Kiev.

Today the guests met with Foreign Minister of Ukraine Anatoliy Zlenko. Under discussion were issues of development of bilateral relations between Ukraine and Mongolia.

Also today the Mongolian minister took part in a ceremony of opening the Mongolian Embassy in Ukraine. A treaty on cooperation between the two countries was initialed, as well as a protocol signed on establishing consular relations.

Today a press conference was held by the foreign minister of Mongolia for Ukrainian and foreign journalists.

Mongolian Embassy Opens

LD0206031792 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1607 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Excerpt] [No dateline as received]—Ukraine's Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko has described the opening of the embassy of Mongolia in Ukraine on 1 June as an important event in the political life of Ukraine. Now, he said, our states are able to solve many issues of political and economic life at a higher embassy level. Ukraine, which is following the path of building a sovereign state, today has already been recognized by nearly 120 countries, 75 of them have established relations with it at the level of embassies.

Ukraine has always played an important role in the cooperation of the former Soviet Union with Mongolia, stressed Tserenpilyn Gombosuren, minister of foreign relations of Mongolia, in an interview with UKRINFORM correspondents. [passage omitted]

National Affairs

Parliamentarians Discuss Crimea Issue in Yalta

OW0106143092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1405 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [1 June] the presidiums of the Ukrainian and Crimean parliaments began talks in Yalta involving the leaders of the Crimean cities. The delegations are led by Chairman of the Ukrainian parliament Ivan Plushch and Chairman of the Crimean parliament Nikolai Bagrov.

According to the Crimean parliament, Ivan Plushch announced that Ukraine refused to consider the Crimea

to be a subject of international law and rejects the ideas of one-channel taxes, the Crimea's ownership of its mineral and land resources, and of forming the Ukrainian national guard in the Crimea from among the Crimeans.

Speaking about the Black Sea Fleet, Ivan Plushch noted that its status was similar to that of the 14th Army in the Dniester region and of the CIS troops in the Baltic republics. Plushch said that in due course, the entire fleet of the Crimea will pass to Ukraine.

At the same time, Plushch recognized the Crimea's right to become a free economic zone. In his turn, Nikolay Bagrov said that the Crimea had never attempted to withdraw from Ukraine or to become a subject of international law. "The Crimea seeks economic freedom," he said.

On Monday [1 June] evening, the results of the talks will be highlighted at a press conference in Yalta.

Adopt Joint Statement

LD0106223392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1833 GMt 1 Jun 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondents Valentin Vernodubenko and Lev Ryabchikov for TASS]

[Text] Yalta (Crimea), 1 Jun—The consultative meeting of the presidiums of the Ukrainian and Crimean Supreme Soviets ended today in Yalta with the adoption of a joint statement. The participants in the meeting noted that the Crimean Republic, as an integral part of Ukraine, should have all the political and legal conditions allowing it to realize the special potential that flows from its geographical location, to have an economy which is open to external investments, and to become a zone of economic and cultural cooperation. While not laying claim to possessing a political personality under international law intrinsic to Ukraine, the Crimea should have the right to independently enter into relations with other states in the social, economic, and cultural spheres.

It was confirmed at the meeting that the resolution of this and other issues should be effected by seeking political solutions on the basis of mutual compromises. Participants in the meeting arrived at the conclusion of needing to form, by 5 June 1992, a joint working group to continue work on delimiting the powers between the bodies of state authority of Ukraine and the Crimea, taking into account agreements reached earlier.

The presidiums of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet and the Crimean Supreme Soviet resolutely oppose any attempts to use anticonstitutional methods of resolving problems and to artificially whip up passions, and called on all political parties and movements to refrain from actions and steps that increase tension.

Cabinet Approves Agreements With Russia

LD0106225992 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1607 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] Kiev, 1 Jun (UKRINFORM)—The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted at its meeting a number of important decisions on implementing agreements between the governments of Ukraine and Russia. The ministries of economy and finances, jointly with the National Bank, must urgently submit to the Cabinet of Ministers a program for Ukraine's exit from the ruble zone, taking into account the proposals and recommendations of the IMF and the World Bank. A joint meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Cabinet of Ministers of Russia on this issue is being prepared. A group of experts will work on a draft agreement with the Government of Russia on prices for the most important types of mutually delivered produce. A number of ministries and departments will prepare proposals regarding an increase of tariffs on the use of Ukrainian territory for transporting by all transportation means oil, gas, ammonia, and other cargo. The study of the possibility of using ammonia tanks belonging to a port plant in Odessa for storing imported oil will be speeded up.

Law Sets Categories of Exposure to Radiation

AU0106120792 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian No. 21 (67), 22 May 92 p 5

[Response by unidentified lawyer to reader's question: "Who is considered to be a participant in the elimination of the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl Atomic Electric Power Plant and what is the procedure for determining the categories of persons who have been affected by it and for allocating them benefits and compensations?:" "Those Who Have Been Scorched by Chernobyl"]

[Text] In December 1991, Ukraine's Supreme Council adopted the law "On Introducing Changes and Additions to the Ukrainian SSR law 'On the Status and Social Protection of Those Citizens Who Have Been Affected by the Chernobyl Catastrophe.'"

At present, the categories of persons who have been affected are determined in a different way in order to establish benefits and compensations they are entitled to (Article 14 of the law). The following categories have been established:

1) Invalids from among participants in the elimination of the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl Atomic Electric Power Plant and those who have been affected by the Chernobyl catastrophe (Articles 10 and 11 of the Law), provided that the cause of their disability has been established as resulting from the Chernobyl catastrophe, those suffering from radiation sickness as a result of the catastrophe, and also those persons whose illness has been caused by the Chernobyl accident—category 1;

2) Participants in the elimination of the consequences of the accident who worked in the zone of evacuation in 1986, irrespective of the number of working days, and in

1987 at least 10 days, those affected by the Chernobyl catastrophe from among persons evacuated from the zone of exposure in 1986, and those persons who permanently resided in the zone of unconditional (obligatory) evacuation for at least five years from the time of the accident—category 2;

3) Children in whom thyroid gland irradiation doses exceed levels established by Ukraine's Ministry of Health; participants in the elimination of the accident at the Chernobyl Atomic Electric Power Plant from among those persons who worked in the evacuation zone during 1987 between one and ten working days and during 1988-90 at least 14 calendar days, as well as those who have been affected by the Chernobyl catastrophe from among those who permanently work or worked and permanently reside or resided on territories of zones of unconditional (obligatory) and guaranteed voluntary evacuation (who have not been assigned category 2)—category 3;

4) Persons who permanently reside or permanently work on the territory of the zone of intensive radiological monitoring—category 4;

In addition to the categories established by the given article, the right to receive benefits is given to those persons who temporarily worked on the territories of the zone of unconditional (obligatory) evacuation for at least 14 calendar days in 1986 and in 1987—at least one month, and on the territory of the zone of guaranteed voluntary evacuation in 1986-87—for at least three months, provided that they had been sent to these zones in accordance with the order issued by ministries, departments, or executive committees of oblast councils of people's deputies.

Citizens who took part in the elimination of other nuclear accidents, in tests, and in military training involving the use of nuclear weapons are assigned categories one, two, or three as determined by Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers.

Citizens who have contracted radiation sickness or whose illness is associated with irradiation as a result of an accident or a violation of the rules of exploitation or burial of radioactive substances that were not the fault of these citizens, provided that such a connection is established by medical institutions, belong to categories one, two, or three, as determined by Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers.

In accordance with the categories listed above, the law provides for benefits and compensations for citizens.

Sunken Warship Might Have Carried Nuclear Arms

LD0106150692 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 0839 GMT 1 Jun 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Sergey Balykov]

[Text] Kiev, 1 Jun—The large anti-submarine ship "Otvazhnyy" which sank in August 1974 near Sevastopol might have had torpedoes with nuclear warheads on board, according to a report in the republic's general political newspaper PRAVDA UKRAINY, citing information received from the international organization Greenpeace.

The paper publishes private archive photographs recording the loss of the "Otvazhnyy", which left the Bay of Sevastopol as part of a squadron of warships and suddenly caught fire. There was virtually no rescue operation, the paper reports.

False Alarms Stop Nuclear Power Station Unit

LD2905115492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1135 GMT 29 May 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Anatoliy Kuznetsov]

[Text] Nikolayev, May 29 TASS—The emergency protection system has caused the first power unit of the South Ukrainian nuclear power station, located near the city of Nikolayev, to stop twice. The incidents took place on May 26-27, power station's information department announced.

In the first case the stoppage was caused by mistakes, made by personnel when they were replacing a malfunctioning instrument, located on the panel board which initiates alarm signals. The other instant occurred when a damaged block in the device which amplifies the alarm signals was being replaced and that also activated the security system. The first power unit has now been linked to the energy circuit. The incidents did not influence the natural radiation background and are classed as irrelevant for safety (zero level).

The third power unit was stopped on May 28 to repair defects in the generator stator's cooling system. A commission to investigate the stoppages has been set up. Radiation background in the region equals natural parameters.

Rains Cause 'Incident' at Khmelnitsk Plant

LD0106132792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1315 GMT 1 Jun 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Vladimir Shevchenko for TASS]

[Text] Netishin, June 1 TASS—Heavy rains caused an incident at the Khmelnitsk nuclear power plant in Ukraine on Sunday [31 May].

The earth fault protection system switched off the first nuclear reactor at 13.38 hours local time after moisture got through the insulation of the bus duct of the generator and caused a short curcuit there.

The reactor was automatically discharged to 38 per cent of nominal power. The automatic reactor and turbine systems worked normally.

After checking the insulation from the generator's switch to the transformer the latter was switched on at 15.40 hours local time. At 18.10 hours the rotors of the turbine were kicked and the turbogenerator of the reactor plugged in at 18.31 hours.

The radioactive background at the plant and in the nearby villages did not change and equals 8-12 microroentgen per hour.

'Citizen of Ukraine' To Appear in Passports

AU0206081292 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] Advertisements that have long been expected by all our fellow countrymen have appeared at entrances of residential buildings in Kiev: Internal affairs' organs have started stamping the Kievans' passports with an entry: Citizen of Ukraine. Those who wish to have their passports stamped must submit their personal documents to local housing committees for the entry of a corresponding record.

More on Passport Amendments

LD0106213892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] In accordance with the Ukrainian president's decree, amendments are to be introduced this year into passports belonging to citizens of the republic. Such work started today in Crimea. The word Ukraine will replace the word USSR. Those who fail to have this done will not be able to get a residence registration, receive money transfers, and pensions.

After the word is introduced in passports Crimeans as citizens of Ukraine will not be able to take part in the Ukrainian referendum since this violates the paragraph of the Ukrainian constitution on territorial integrity.

Byelarus

Defense Minister on Armed Forces Reforms

LD0106143992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1417 GMT 1 Jun 92

[By BELTA correspondent Leonid Tratsevskiy]

[Text] Minsk, June 1 TASS—"Instead of former divisions, overloaded with tanks in accordance with the offensive military doctrine of the former Soviet Union, the Army in the Byelarusian armed forces will include highly-mobile mechanized brigades of an exceptionally defensive character," Byelarusian Defence Minister Pavel Kozlovskiy said in an interview published in local newspapers today.

Republican air defence armies and air force units will be united with air defence and air force units attached to other formations, Kozlovskiy said. This will lead to the creation of reliable and powerful air defences and air forces, capable to defend Byelarus's sovereignty, he said.

Officers for the republican army will undergo training in schools in Minsk, as well as military departments at civilian colleges, he said.

When drafting servicemen, the armed forces will not discriminate against non-Byelarusians and high professional skills and dedication to national interests will be the only criteria, he stressed.

In the future, the armed forces will be speaking in Byelarusian, since by the end of next year half of the officers corps and most soldiers will be ethnic Byelarusians, he said.

Army Daily Interviews Defense Minister

PM0106141192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 May 92 p 3

[Interview with Byelarusian Defense Minister Pavel Kozlovskiy by Colonels V. Kovalev, P. Chernenko; place and date not given: "Belorussian Military District No Longer Exists. Republican Army Does Exist. Eight Questions for Colonel General Pavel Kozlovskiy, Byelarusian Defense Minister"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] **From KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's Files**

P.P. Kozlovskiy was born 9 March 1942 in the village of Volkovyya (Pruzhanskiy Rayon, Brest Oblast). He is a Byelarusian. Graduated from Tashkent Higher Combined-Arms Command School and the M.V. Frunze and General Staff Military Academies. He was chief of staff and deputy commander of the Belorussian Military District. He was appointed Byelarusian defense minister 22 April.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] Pavel Pavlovich, you have already defined your main tasks?

[Kozlovskiy] The main task now facing the Defense Ministry is the work to create the republic's Armed Forces. In the near future we will formulate a program for reorganizing the former Belorussian Military District, cutting the number of troops, and organizing new control structures. After that, when this program is approved at state level, we will start implementing it. We will register all officers wishing to return home. We will transfer them to our republic as vacancies occur.

The next step will be an urgent reduction in command and control structures which are not needed by the Byelarusian Armed Forces. Why urgent? It is dictated by limited financial resources. The reduction will improve our financial position. It will enable military collectives to be brought completely up to strength. This is naturally a very serious step, because it will affect many people's fate. An especially considered and well thought out approach is needed here. Those servicemen who fall under the ax can be sure that the government and the Defense Ministry will create all the conditions to alleviate the effects of discharge as much as possible for them.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] The structure, composition, and numerical strength of any army are to a crucial degree predetermined by the state's military doctrine. As we know, you directly participated in its formulation.

[Kozlovskiy] And I will continue to participate, because the work on the republic's military doctrine is continuing. For the time being we can talk only about its general provisions. We proceed from the premise that Byelarus proclaimed itself a neutral and nonnuclear state in its Declaration of State Sovereignty. Therefore our military doctrine will have an exclusively defensive character. The republic does not intend to attack anybody, and all tactical nuclear weapons have, as you know, already been withdrawn from its territory. Strategic weapons are next in line. The number of tanks will also be considerably reduced.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] What sort of republic Army do you envisage?

[Kozlovskiy] If the Byelarusian Armed Forces are needed only to protect the republic's territory and people, we do not need to have as many troops as we have now. As early as in the first stage it is planned to reduce their numbers by approximately up to 90,000 men. The future Armed Forces will comprise Ground Forces, Air Force, and Air Defense Forces. It is still difficult to talk about their structure at the moment. In all likelihood we will scrap unwieldy divisions which find it hard to operate effectively in conditions of swampy woodland terrain and will embark on the road of creating brigades—small in personnel terms but powerful in firepower terms and highly maneuverable.

As regards the Belorussian Military District, the district was, as you know, abolished by a Byelarusian Council of Ministers resolution back on 6 May. All formations and units stationed on republic territory and not being part of the CIS Strategic Forces have been transferred to the Byelarusian Defense Ministry's command. The district's colors, Order of the Red Banner, and press have been handed over to the republic Defense Ministry.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] You noted that the Byelarusian Army will be created in stages. Is it possible to talk about the time scales yet?

[Kozlovskiy] Yes, I see two stages here. The first is a transitional period for which, as has been announced, two years have been allocated. During this period troop cuts will be made and the legal and material basis for the autonomous functioning of the republic Armed Forces will be prepared. The second stage is to complete the reorganization and reduction of troops, and to achieve an optimal numerical strength and the organization and establishment structure for the Army.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] The troops stationed on Byelarusian territory are experiencing great difficulties in the supply of material, technical resources, clothing, and related gear.

[Kozlovskiy] Correct, deliveries from the former center have now practically ended. Unfortunately it is unlikely that anything will change for the better here in the near future. That is why I spoke of the need to reduce the dependence on outside deliveries. Steps are already being taken in this direction. Very soon the uniform for the republic Army's servicemen will be designed. Of course, it would be naive to suppose that the republic can produce everything that the Armed Forces need. But we do not intend to cut ourselves off from the other CIS states by an iron curtain. We will forge ties and participate in cooperative ventures to produce equipment and weapons. The Byelarusian defense sector produces a considerable number of products which the CIS Joint Armed Forces and CIS countries' national armies need. This means that they too will have an interest in maintaining lasting ties in the sphere of the material and technical equipping of our Armed Forces.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] Over 6,000 officers originally drafted from Byelarusian territory have already declared their wish to serve in the republic. How will their fate be decided?

[Kozlovskiy] It is a very complex problem. Around 45,000 officers who are our fellow countrymen are serving outside Byelarus. Yes, you were correct in saying that over 6,000 would like to return to the republic. Moreover, this number is increasing every day. It is not known how many more transfer applications we will receive. Unfortunately, it is impossible to transfer all applicants to Byelarus—the vacant posts simply do not exist for this. Right now hundreds of officers are surplus to the strength level and are waiting.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] But thousands of officers and warrant officers performing service in Byelarus do not have housing. Meanwhile a division from Germany is redeploying to the republic; KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has written about it...

[Kozlovskiy] Housing is already being built for the families of officers and warrant officers of the division being withdrawn from the FRG. And, let me note, actually using Germany's money. Thus they are not claiming apartments which are being erected for servicemen through the republic budget.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] There are only two military schools on Byelarusian territory. Where exactly, if it is not a secret, will the national army's officer cadres be trained?

[Kozlovskiy] We will train officers in many specialties in the two existing higher military schools—the Military Pedagogical and the Air Defense Surface-to-Air Missile Command Engineering Schools. Training in other specialties will be in CIS countries' schools, primarily of aircrews. We intend to train rear services and finance specialists in civilian higher educational establishments.

Kebich Ends Official Visit to Israel 28 May

LD3105092992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1813 GMT 28 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Kerzhentsev]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 28 May—Vyacheslav Kebich, prime minister of the Republic of Byelarus, ended his official visit to Israel today. In an interview given to an ITAR-TASS correspondent prior to his flight home, he noted that it was the first visit on the level of the head of state of one of the CIS countries. He assessed highly the results of talks with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Foreign Minister David Levi, Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai, and other Israeli leaders. The head of the Byelarusian Government and those accompanying him also held meetings with representatives of Israeli business circles. They visited some industrial enterprises and a number of agricultural farms.

Vyacheslav Kebich thinks that the signing of an agreement on establishing diplomatic relations at the level of ambassadors and the signing of a memorandum on the main principals of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries are the main results of a three-day intensive and rather packed visit to Israel. An agreement on the joint implementation of eight major projects including the ones in the field of agriculture, medicine and infrastructure and on the opening of direct air route between Minsk and Tel Aviv were also reached in principle.

Mikhail Farfel, who took part in negotiations, has been appointed Byelarusian temporary charge d'affaires to Israel. In the near future he will become the first Byelarusian plenipotentiary ambassador to Israel.

Moldova

Snegur Appeals for Unity During TV Appearance

AU0106200792 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1900 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Septimiu Roman report from Chisinau]

[Text] Mr. Mircea Snegur, president of the Republic of Moldova, addressed an appeal to the citizens of the Republic of Moldova, during an appearance he made today on the TV program "Facing the Nation." After

enumerating the steps taken by the new state, the Republic of Moldova, in all spheres of activity, Mr. Mircea Snegur referred to the actions of separatists and the pro- imperial forces in Moscow.

[Begin Snegur recording] Esteemed fellow citizens, I am addressing you, the whole nation, at an extremely difficult point in our history, maybe the most difficult one since the war. After decades of uncertainties and monstrous and diabolic practices designed to change the very fiber of our nation, we gained the chance—through honest struggle—to build for ourselves a destiny that is worthy of the peacefulness and diligence of this people.

For the first time, legal structures elected by the whole nation are at the helm of the country. The parliament and the republican executive branch, aware of the geopolitical realities and the balance of power in the perimeter of the former Soviet Union and in the world, are making steady efforts to build an independent state. A most important element for our evolution toward democracy will be the adoption of the constitution of the independent state of Moldova this year.

All our efforts for self-assertion are hampered by the brutal impertinence of those who strive to turn Moldova's lands into a bridgehead for the continuation of the imperial plots of the former Soviet Union and its legal successor, Russia. At a time when we are inviting neutral foreign experts, Russian officials such as Kogan, Travkin, Makashov, Rutskoy [vice president of the Russian Federation], [name indistinct], and others were in Tiraspol giving advice left and right. The visit and stance adopted by the Russian vice president unequivocally exposed Russia's role in this conflict. It was Rutskoy who morally prepared the act of the 14th Army, openly siding with the separatists.

After a more profound analysis of events on the left bank of the Dniester River, we reached the conclusion that Russia's increased aggressiveness in east Moldova is not at all accidental. If some of the republics, including Moldova, considered the CIS a means for peaceful and civilized overcoming of the former Soviet empire, Moscow in currently promoting a new variant of the USSR, through the installation of pro-Moscow regimes in the republics. I would like Moldova's people to be aware of the fact that Moscow does not like our independent policy and is resorting to all means, primarily separatism, to change the republic's orientation and install, I repeat, a pro-Moscow regime in Chisinau. [end recording]

President Mircea Snegur also enumerated future modalities to overcome the current difficulties, dwelling upon the need for unity of all forces in the republic. Then he reviewed economic problems, emphasizing that this is the priority task in the new circumstances.

President Snegur then answered many questions from television viewers and listeners.

More on Snegur Remarks

LD0106215892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1926 GMT 1 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, June 1 TASS—President Mircea Snegur of Moldova went on national television today to call on citizens to unite, be disciplined and be prepared to defend the motherland.

"It is necessary to maintain normal economic functioning, because the war imposed on us brings huge material losses by the minute," Snegur stressed.

He suggested that "imperial circles want to destroy the republic economically by drawing it into a war of attrition."

Snegur said he will step up diplomatic efforts to draw international attention to the Russian military aggression on the left bank region of the Dniester River. Russia's interest in Moldova's left bank region is not accidental. Whereas Moldova and several other republics saw in the CIS a means for a civilized break-up of the Soviet empire, Moscow has charted a new model of the USSR—by establishing new pro-Moscow regimes, Snegur said.

Moscow responded negatively to a desire by Moldova, Azerbaijan and Ukraine to have their own armed forces and borders, he said.

Snegur accused Russian Vice President Aleksxandr Rutskoy, who recently visited Tiraspol, of justifying morally the 14th Army's siding with separatists.

He then spoke about urgent measures "to repel the aggression," taken by the republican leadership. "Our resolve made the Russian leadership flexible and forced it to expedite talks on the withdrawal of the 14th Army from the Dniester region," he said.

Snegur believes that talks between foreign and defence ministers from Moldova, Russia, Romania and Ukraine should continue. It is also necessary to continue "working with residents of the left bank (of the Dniester)," he said.

"All people irrespective of their nationality should understand that only legal authorities can guarantee them their rights and peace," he said.

"We should admit that we are loosing the information war and should launch an offensive in order to let everyone know the truth about the situation in Moldova," he said.

Deputies Seek Consensus on Dniester Cease-Fire

LD0206003992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 1 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] It seems that a truce has established at last in the Dniester region. There has been practically no shooting in the Left Bank regions for the third day running. Today

has also passed relatively calmly. A report by our special correspondent in Tiraspol confirms this.

[Correspondent V. Luskanov] The Dniester's ice of cold war has finally started to break on the first day of summer. A total of 66 Moldovan parliamentarians arrived yesterday in Tiraspol to discuss the possibility of finding a political solution to the conflict. They have managed to agree on the main thing: deputies from the Dniester region must return to the Moldovan parliament, and , jointly with the Agrarians and Consensus factions, place a point on the political situation in the Dniester region on the agenda of a session of the Moldovan parliament which opens on 9 June. The calculation is that moderate centrists in Chisinau, backed by 64 votes of Left Bank deputies, can count on adopting a legislative decision on an immediate cease-fire and the separation of the sides.

There are serious obstacles to this. A session of the Dniester region Supreme Soviet opens tomorrow. Radically orientated deputies are prepared to adopt a declaration on state independence and sovereignty. If this happens, the way to parliamentary negotiations with Dniester would be cut off.

Bosnia-Hercegovina's Independence Recognized

LD0106194992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1645 GMT 1 Jun 92

[By MOLDOVA-PRESS for TASS]

[Text] Chisinau, June 1 TASS—Moldova recognised independent Bosnia-Hercegovina in a presidential decree signed on Monday [1 June]. Mircea Snegur authorised the republican foreign Ministry to start negotiations with the former Yugoslavian republic on the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Kazakhstan

Parliament Discusses Republican Constitution

OW0106183092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Parliament of Kazakhstan started discussing a new constitution on Monday [1 June]. The speakers welcomed the draft on the whole. At the same time there were differences over that article of the fundamental law which divides the powers of legislative and executive bodies and of parliament and the President.

The law-makers also said that a mechanism hadn't been found yet to balance representative and executive authorities, locally, for instance, between the heads of local administrations, appointed by the President and the elective councils of peoples deputies of the district, city and regional level.

Constitution Said To Strengthen Social Peace

OW0106193192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1838 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Presenting a draft for a new constitution of Kazakhstan to the parliament today, President Nursultan Nazarbayev expressed the conviction that the new constitution would serve to strengthen social peace in the republic.

He said the new constitution would replace the "Brezhnev-Kunayev", one of 1978 and would be a document providing for the practical protection of "man rights rather than a "glittering exhibit." In his opinion the way the Americans treat their constitution (it is "sacred for all Americans") is a good example to follow.

He stressed that the new constitution would, if passed, become the first document providing a basis for a Kazakh national state and would contain guarantees for the development of all peoples populating the republic.

IF [INTERFAX] note: According to Nazarbayev's program for the rapid development of the republic, it is "quite in order in our state, which adheres to the principles of equal opportunity for everybody and everybody's equality before the law, special provisions should be made for the interests of the native population, the Kazakhs, which is the case in a whole number of states. This concerns the revival of Kazakh culture and the Kazakh language, the restoration of cultural and other links with the Kazakh diaspora, and the provision of persons who were forced to leave Kazakhstan with opportunities to return to their country." "Facing no obstacles to their own development, the Kazakh people will undoubtedly understand the interests and needs of other peoples." Nazarbayev expects the new constitution to strengthen the presidential form of government in the republic and provide for a balance of power, ministerial appointments being approved by the parliament.

IF note: "De facto presidential rule will be part of the developing political system of independent Kazakhstan," Nazarbayev's rapid development program goes. "As head of state, the President of the republic should have all instruments at his disposal necessary to ensure collective government. Heading the government, he will be in charge of the supreme executive body, appointing ministers and formulating duties for the government as a whole and its individual members. A policy will be pursued ensuring increasingly stricter division of powers between different bodies of authority and more effective interaction between them both in the center and in the provinces. The supreme representative body of Kazakhstan will become truly professional, compact in size and consisting of competent deputies. The head of state should be able to make urgent corrections in the policy of other branches of power in order to ensure that the constitution and laws of the republic, and the rights and freedoms of its citizens are not violated." Nazarbayev made a special emphasis on a clause in the constitution guaranteeing the right to private ownership.

Speaking about the clauses dealing with the rights and functions of political parties, the President stressed that parties should not be allowed to act as power bodies. In his opinion, such parties as Alash, Zheltoksan, and the Cossack movement are destabilizing the political situation and should be dealt with by law-enforcement bodies.

He suggested that the draft be submitted to nationwide discussion, after which the constitutional commission should make amendments to it on the basis of suggestions made in the course of it. Then the draft should be considered by the parliament.

Tereshchenko Receives Malaysian Foreign Minister

LD2505061192 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko today received Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi, who is in Alma-Ata for an official visit. During their conversation they discussed specific opportunities for establishing bilateral cooperation. The head of government issued an invitation to open a Malaysian trade mission in the capital of Kazakhstan, exchange business delegations, cooperate in training cadres, and set up joint enterprises in the area of small and medium-size business. The Malaysian minister stated that he would make every effort to get the businesspeople of his country interested in strengthening economic contacts with Kazakhstan, in particular in organizing a (?specially designated) base for joint enterprises for seeking and exploiting oil and gas deposits.

The sides agreed, on the basis of already existing agreements between the former USSR and Malaysia, to formulate and sign new treaties at the government level, taking contemporary realities into consideration. The visa system will be simplified on a reciprocal basis to make it easier to exchange delegations.

It was stressed that the accords which have been reached must quickly be turned into practical actions.

Kyrgyztan

Further Reportage on Control of Troops

OW0106194892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1838 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Askar Akayev has decreed that beginning from June 1 Kyrgyzstan be entitled to all troops and their headquarters stationed on its territory. From this date onwards, they will be reporting directly to Kyrgyzstan's State Defense Committee, the government assuming upon itself all expenditures associated with their financial, material, and pension support. The President assigned the government to work out the national defense concept, and by August 1 submit a draft law on the status of Kyrgyzstan's armed formations and the government proposals re stages of troops reduction.

Subsequently, the Republic's Defense Committee is expected to coordinate with the CinC CIS Joint Armed Forces (JAF) the list of military units which fall under the category of strategic forces.

At the press conference this Monday [1 June] morning, the Republic's Vice President Felix Kulov commented on the presidential decree, admitting that the government was "forced to resort to this measure". Owing to the RF [Russian Federation] government decision to terminate the financial support of the CIS troops stationed in the republics other than Russia, CinC CIS JAF Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov forwarded an official letter to President Akayev asking him to expedite the decision on the Army future: whether the units would belong to the Republic or assume Russia's jurisdiction. However, Feliks Kulov says, the troops would not have to swear the oath of allegiance to Kyrgyzstan until the end of the army reform, the army reduction, and the adoption of the Law on the Armed Forces.

This year, the Republic is planning to allocate about 800 mn rubles to the military budget.

Vice President on Troops Reduction

LD0106161792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1446 GMT 1 Jun 92

[By KYRGYZTAG-TASS correspondent Albert Bogdanov]

[Text] Bishkek, 1 Jun—By decree of President of Kyrgyzstan Askar Akayev, the military units stationed on the republic's territory are taken under republic jurisdiction.

Commenting on this today at a news conference, the republic's Vice President Feliks Kulov stated that "there will be a twofold or threefold reduction in the number of troops and their equipment will be purely defensive in nature, without complex or expensive weapons." According to him, in the future Kyrgyzstan will go over to a reserve system of armed formations.

The vice president also gave assurances that the republic will carry out all points in the treaty between the countries of the Commonwealth on collective security and will continue to send young Kyrgyz men to serve in the CIS troops.

Army Takeover 'Forced Measure'

OW0106184292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Vice-President of Kyrgyzstan, Feliks Kulov, has said that his republic's decision to place under its jurisdiction the army units and officers on its territory starting from June 1 was a result of Russia's decision to stop financing army units not belonging to it and deployed beyond its borders. Vice-President Kulov said in Bishkek that it was a forced measure.

He quoted the recent message from the CIS commander-in-chief Marshal Shaposhnikov to President Askar Akayev containing proposals for an early settlement of the question to re-subordinate the armed units in question either to Russia or to Kyrgyzstan. Kulov said that the hand-over of army units to Russia had been contemplated, however, the role of Kyrgyzstan in that process remained unclear.

Kulov said that army people would not be asked to take the oath of allegiance to Kyrgyzstan until the republic completed its military reform and arms reductions and adopted a law on army units.

The Kyrgyz Vice-President said that his country's military budget would total 800 million rubles a year.

Tajikistan

Nabiyev Addresses Nation, Appeals For Peace

LD3005184392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1609 GMT 30 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, May 30 TASS—Tajik President Rakhmon Nabiyev has called on his compatriots, political parties and movements to support his efforts to stop internecine strife and restore peace and stability in the republic.

In a televised address to the nation on Saturday [30 May], Nabiyev said "someone would like to implant in people's mind a thought about an inevitable break-up of the republic, a possibility of granting individual regions the status of autonomous entities and their disobedience to the republican bodies of power. I should say with all the responsibility that such attempts will be considered as treason," Nabiyev said.

He stressed he will make everything necessary to prevent the republic's disintegration and use his constitutional powers to preserve the "unified democratic secular state."

Commenting on the exodus of Russians from Tajikistan, the president said "he and the republican leadership are doing everything possible to end the war of laws and arbitrariness in Tajikistan and take decisive measures to ensure the implementation of the presidential decree on the disbandment of illegal armed groups and to prevent infringements upon the rights and freedoms of the indigenous population and ethnic minorities" in Tajikistan.

'Illegal' Armed Groups Reportedly Active

LD2705175592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Illegal armed formations have been set up in the Kurgan-Tyubinsk and Kulyab oblasts of Tajikistan. They are operating despite the president's decree on their immediate disbandment and the confiscation of weapons. This has been stated by Deputy Internal Affairs Minister Sharali Khayrolloyev. In his speech at an extraordinary session of the national reconciliation government dedicated to the social and political situation in Tajikistan, he cited examples of attacks on militia employees in order to seize weapons.

Events, Fighting in Dushanbe Reviewed

PM2705133792 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 22 May 92 p 1

[Article by U. Babakhanov and A. Ganelin under the rubric "Attempt at Analysis": "Will There Be a Square of the Victorious Opposition in Dushanbe?"]

[Text] Dushanbe—There are no longer spent cases or spilt blood on the streets of Dushanbe today. The flowerbeds in front of the presidential palace have been tidied. A government of national reconciliation now sits there. Will it be able to reconcile people from various parts of the republic? A thousand eyes today watch its every step—Kulyab, bristling with the assault rifles of the former presidential guard, mountainous Badakhshan, and Khodzhent, frozen in anxious expectation....

Society has been split asunder. Not only according to regions and political parties. The fissure of mutual misunderstanding runs across villages and across families. In the days of the recent confrontation brothers, wives and husbands, and fathers and children found themselves on different sides of the barricades. What can you say about ordinary people, when the heroes of the two hostile squares—Hojji Akbar Turadzhonzod, the head of the republic's Muslims, and Safarali Kendzhayev, former chairman of the Supreme Soviet—were close relatives?

The opposition has won. What was bound to have happened sooner or later after the disintegration of the Union, has actually happened. Besides, even the republic authorities have done everything, it appears, to hasten this moment. Until late 1990 the opposition in "sunny Tajikistan" was tiny—the democrats managed to bring out onto the streets only a few hundred people. The situation changed in the fall of that year. The Islamic Revival Party [IRP] then declared its intention to register. The Tajik parliament was categorical—ban it! It took a whole year for this ban to be lifted, after an IRP rally lasting for two solid weeks. A year in the underground, however, was not wasted for this party: A wide network of primary organizations was created in the republic, and a structure and ideology were formed. The only thing that the authorities achieved was to make the "intransigent opposition" still more intransigent. But even then the authorities did not move toward cooperation. War was declared, not only on Islamists, but on the secular forces in the opposition, the republic democratic party, the "Rastokhez" people's movement.

After the August putsch the Tajik Communist Party was the only combat detachment of the CPSU not to change its old name. The "fundamentalists" of the Tajik Communist Party evidently sincerely assumed that they could retain for their party the status of ruling party in a state where 90 percent of the population are Muslims.

At the end of last year the people of sovereign Tajikistan, tired of perestroyka somersaults, elected as their president 61-year-old Rakhmon Nabiyev, a former republic party leader. We do not doubt that the new president sincerely wished to extricate the republic from crisis. But, as the saying goes, a king is only as good as his courtiers. And Nabiyev picked a frankly undistinguished set of courtiers.

In April 1990 people with white bandages on their heads—fidais—came out onto Shakhidon Square. The word "fidai" means "giving one's life for an idea." The one idea for which some people in Tajikistan were by this time prepared to give their lives turned out to be Islam.

Today there are whispers in narrow circles here and there: "The main cause of the government's defeat was Nabiyev's indecisiveness!" Is this true? It is said that Nabiyev was indeed virtually the only man in the top leadership who was till the last against the use of force—this is beside the point. So is even the switch of sides to the opposition by General Rakhmonov, commander of the presidential guard, who surrendered weapons and military equipment to the "men of Shakhidon." We are convinced that the main factor which determined the outcome of the battle was the presence of a mighty idea in the minds of some, and its absence in that of others. Under green banners on Shakhidon Square stood people inspired by the religion of their fathers and grandfathers. On Ozod Square people gathered under red banners which inspired no one. Their "ideology" consisted of just two slogans: "Kazi-Kalon!", meaning "Resign!", and "Three Cheers for Kendzhayev!" This is why at the critical moment the president's soldiers, out of control and in effect betrayed by their leaders, finally dispersed to their homes. There turned out to be no one wanting to perish for the chairman of the parliament...

The concluding act of the bloody Dushanbe drama was the incident near the government's last bastions—the buildings of the Committee for National Security and

the republic MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs]. The opposition claims that people headed here to meet their president who, they believed, was residing there. Instead of meeting the president, the people were met by bullets. The Chekists have already officially stated that they did not shoot at the crowd. It would appear that the MVD and the OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] are again being made into extremists. We have only one question: Who needed in this situation to hurl people at departments whose staffers already considered themselves dead men, and who were prepared to stand until the end? Especially since, according to the statement by A. Salibayev, the new chief of the Committee for National Security, the president left the committee two days before the drama.

When the war ended, the victors set up a "museum of battle glory" on the steps of the defeated parliament. Citizens were given the opportunity to admire the captured weapons: sticks and fittings, bloody clothing, and vodka bottles. In these same days the republic television displayed to amazed viewers stores of liquor found in the Supreme Soviet building, cellars where people were tortured, and contraceptives found in the parliament. Let us recall that roughly the same "gentleman's outfit" was found in the Georgian Government residence after Gamsakhurdia's flight.

This was a revolution. This is the belief of opposition leaders. Indeed, many things were very reminiscent of the events which were once studied in school text books. History has repeated itself: The "constituent assembly"—the republic Supreme Soviet—has been in effect dissolved, and a "soviet of workers' and peasants' deputies"—the national mejlis—has been set up according to the laws of revolutionary times. True, there are also differences. For example, in 1917 neither the emperor, nor the provisional government armed people randomly to preserve their power...

So, will there be an Islamic state in Tajikistan or not? IRP Chairman Mukhamad-Sharif Khimmatzoda replied as follows at a summing-up press conference: "This is what we want. We realize that 100,000 or 200,000 people attending a rally do not have the right to foist their will on the entire republic. People are not ready yet. We believe the time will come when the children and grandchildren of those who today oppose Islam at the nationwide referendum, will say 'yes.'"

He is probably right. Sooner or later this will happen. Right now a more topical question is on the agenda—will sober-minded and moderate leaders of the Muslim movement be able to restrain their followers from extreme, radical actions?

...Incidentally, on the question of the republic's readiness to become Islamic. At the very height of the political passions, a surprising inscription appeared on the fence alongside Dushanbe's main avenue: "I love you, Karina!"

Tukmenistan

President on Grain Prices, Aircraft Sale

OW2605223892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2059 GMT 26 May 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Saparmurad Niyazov announced about the raising of purchasing prices for grain at a meeting with the republican public. According to him, he proposes to the farmers of the republic to sell the wheat to the state by 6 roubles a kilogram (earlier the purchasing price of wheat was 3.4 roubles a kilogram), corn—for 4 roubles (1.7 roubles), rice—for 7 roubles (5.4 roubles). Niyazov says that this measure will raise the farmers' interest to the production and increase of the grain selling to the state.

IF [INTERFAX] note: This year Turkmenistan plans to produce 1 million tons of grain.

The President said that Turkmenistan reviews the possibility of selling 223 military aircraft abroad. According to him, the incomes from selling these aircraft will be directed to the republican budget and for the improving of the living conditions of the servicemen in Turkmenistan and for the needs of the CIS Joint Armed Forces.

Making comments on President's statement for "IF", the Deputy Defense Minister of Turkmenistan Annamurat Sultanov said that the issue on the aircraft selling must be solved only with Russia after the signing of the treaty of the status of forces deployed in Turkmenistan.

IF note: At present the Turkmenian delegation is negotiating with the Russian government on the issue of signing this treaty.

President Niyazov Cited on Gas Price Increases

LD2705081792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1938 GMT 26 May 92

[From the "Domestic Market" section]

[Text] Ashkabad—In the nearest future, Turkmenistan is going to begin sale of military planes abroad and to raise prices for gas, to liquidate the republic budget's deficit. On May 26 Saparmurad Niyazov, the republic's president, at a meeting with electors at Turkmenistan's Academy of Sciences, further said that in the near future Turkmenistan will turn to the world prices in its settlements with those consumers of Turkmenian gas who pay in roubles.

A rise in the prices for gas will allow us to make the republic's budget entailing no deficit, without a single effort, Saparmurad Niyazov said. Employees of the press-service of Turkmenistan's president refused to explain which concrete measures are to be taken by the republic's leadership in connection with Saparmurad Niyazov's declaration on the plans of selling planes and raising the gas price, in particular, in which connection

sales of military equipment stands with the agreement on the status of the troops stationed in the republic. The agreement is planned to be signed in early June this year between Russia and Turkmenistan.

President Niyazov on Republic Security Issues

LD2705152192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Turkemenistan President Saparmurad Niyazov met today with officials of the Committee for National Security and said the main task of this department is to provide and preserve stability in the Republic. The Republic's foreign policy in relation to its traditional neighbors Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, and the new CIS states, will be built on the principles of mutual respect and non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

President Appoints New National Security Chief

OW2605113892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1000 GMT 26 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Turkmenistan President Saparmurad Niyazov has appointed a new chairman of the National Security Committee—the former first deputy chairman of the KGB Saparmurad Seidov. His predecessor was appointed the first deputy commander of the Central Asian border district.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Malaysia

LD2905181792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1610 GMT 29 May 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Ashkhabad—On May 29, Turkmenistan and Malaysia established diplomatic relations and proclaimed their intention to strengthen economic and cultural ties.

A protocol on establishment of diplomatic relations was signed in Ashkhabad by Turkmenistan Foreign Minister Avdy Kuliyev and Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Badawi who arrived in Turkmenistan on an official visit on May 28. Abdullah Badawi also met with Turkmenistan's President Saparmurad Niyazov to discuss the issues of economic, cultural and spiritual cooperation between the two Muslim countries. Members of the Malaysian delegation—representatives of the business circles of the country, in particular, the national corporation on oil products, airline companies, as well as firms specializing in production of clothes and tourist services, met with leaders of a number of Turkmenistan agencies, including the State Committee on Foreign Economic Relations and the state concern Turkmengazprom. According to some reports, the sides agreed to extend their contacts in purchases of Turkmenistan carpets and certain types of agricultural products, development of tourism, as well as in extraction and processing of oil and gas and sales of Malaysian consumer goods in Turkmenistan. On May 30, the Malaysian delegation is expected to leave for Tehran.

Uzbekistan

Birlik Congress Condemns Erk 'Collaboration'

MK2805092992 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 May 92 p 3

[NEGA report: "Uzbekistan"]

[Text] The Fifth Congress of the Uzbek People's Movement, "Birlik" ("Unity")—the republic's leading independent democratic organization—completed its work in Tashkent 24 May.

The "Birlik" movement set up in early 1990 by a group of local democratic members of the intelligentsia has so far remained the republic's only influential political organization in opposition to Karimov's regime.

Addressing the congress, "Birlik" leader Abdurakhim Pulatov noted that the movement has in its two-year existence become a truly democratic organization, winning popularity not only in Uzbekistan but also abroad.

A debate developed at the congress over how "Birlik" should develop its relations with the "Erk" ("Will") party. These two organizations' policy goals are similar, and both describe themselves as independent. However, after "Erk" won official status 11 September last year, having secured the signatures of 40,000 supporters, its relations with the authorities have begun to look like blatant collaboration. "Erk" recently announced its intention of setting up a democratic forum of Uzbekistan—without representatives of "Birlik." The response to this was the decision of the "Birlik" congress to refuse to cooperate with "Erk."

The congress issued a statement voicing support for democratic forces in Tajikistan. "Events in Tajikistan present a dreadful warning to all totalitarian regimes," the statement says.

"Birlik" condemned the Treaty on Collective Security concluded at the meeting of the CIS heads of state in Tashkent and viewed Karimov's involvement in it as "betraying the interests of kindred Azerbaijan," the victim of Armenian aggression.

Shukharat Ismatulayev and Abdurakhim Pulatov were elected cochairmen of the movement.

Opposition Member Assaulted; President Blamed

MK2805161992 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 May 92 p 3

[NEGA report: "Uzbekistan"]

[Text] Mirolim Adylov, head of a firm of legal consultants in Tashkent, has been assaulted in his office. Adylov is a member of the leadership of "Birlik," the People's Movement of Uzbekistan. He has recently received several telephone calls threatening violence unless he stops working for the opposition.

A week earlier, Ravshan Dzhurayev, leader of "Birlik's" youth organization, was attacked in the street. A. Pulatov, the movement's cochairman, believes that this

shows that Uzbek President Karimov is resorting to extreme measures to deal with Uzbekistan's democratic forces, which are increasingly posing a real threat to the neocommunist regime's existence.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Bahrain

LD0106140592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1328 GMT 1 Jun 92

[By UZA correspondent Vladimir Priger for TASS]

[Text] Tashkent, May 1 TASS—Diplomatic relations have been established between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the State of Bahrain. A protocol to this effect was signed by Uzbekistan Foreign Minister Ubaidulla Adurazzakov and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Bahrain to Saudi Arabia, Shaykh 'Isa Ben Muhammad al-Khalifa, who expressly travelled to Tashkent for the purpose.

Following the signing of the document, a warm friendly conversation took place. The Uzbek foreign minister told the guests about problems of independent Uzbekistan and its foreign policy aimed at strengthening peace and establishing relations of trust, mutual understanding and benefit with all countries.

The minister stressed the specific importance for Uzbekistan of relations with Arab countries. Uzbekistan has been linked to them by common historical roots, common culture and religion.

Respect for the Arab world values and desire to strengthen comprehensive relations with it was made vividly evident by the recent visit of President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan to Saudi Arabia.

The guests expressed gratitude for the hospitality and hearty welcome. They spoke in favour of developing comprehensive mutually beneficial relations between the two countries.

Armenia

Units of 7th Army To Begin 'Phased Pullout'

LD0106194292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1654 GMT 1 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan June 1 TASS—Units of the 7th Army will begin withdrawing from Armenia in 10-15 days, according to the schedule of a phased pullout agreed between Russia and Armenia, Fedor Reyut, the army commander, told TASS on Monday [1 June].

Families of 120 servicemen had already left Armenia and part of army property, hardware and armaments were also withdrawn, Reyut said.

Army units "the presence of which on the territory of the republic is unnecessary" will be withdrawn during the first phase which will last until January 1994, he added.

At present, the army command discusses with the Armenian Defence Ministry the possibility of using various types of transport for the withdrawal. After the issue is settled the sides will work out a complete withdrawal schedule, Reyut said.

Humanitarian Aid Truck Hits Mine, Explodes

LD0106193692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1629 GMT 1 Jun 92

[By ARMENPRESS correspondent Boris Kyufaryan for TASS]

[Text] Yerevan June 1 TASS—A truck carrying British humanitarian aid, brought to Nagorno-Karabakh by Caroline Cox, deputy speaker of the House of Lords of the British Parliament, exploded on a mine near the Armenian settlement of Kichan. One person was killed, the Self-Defence Headquarters of Nagorno-Karabakh reported on Monday [1 June].

Killed and wounded were also reported from the settlement of Martuni which was shelled from rocket launchers from the territory of Azerbaijan last night, the source said.

Azerbaijani Shelling of Border Settlements Noted

NC0106192692 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] The provocative shelling of Armenia's border regions is continuing. According to information provided by the Armenian Defense Ministry, artillery and reactive shells fired from Azerbaijan's Kubatlinskiy Rayon fell on Kornidzor and Khndzoresk villages in Goriyskiy Rayon early on the morning of 1 June. One resident was killed and another was injured. The shelling caused substantial damage.

Kapan city and Davit-Bek, Yekhvard, Arznak and (Dzhakaden) villages in Kapanskiy Rayon were shelled again last night from the direction of Zangelanskiy Rayon. The number of casualties is being determined, but it already is known that eight buildings were destroyed in Davit-Bek.

Ter-Petrosyan Frees Prices, Raises Fares

OW0106192292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1837 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Levon Ter-Petrosyan has signed two decrees.

One of them allows enterprises to fix from today (June 1) their own prices on their goods depending on demand for them.

By this measure the President hopes to give a new impetus to the development of market relations, get rid of unprofitable enterprises and stimulate the production of consumer goods, as well as to make up for losses incurred by increases in the prices of raw materials in Russia and other CIS states.

The decree also raises bus, trolleybus, tram, and underground fares to one ruble.

IF [INTERFAX] note: There will be reductions in urban public transport fares for some population groups: a reduction of 75% for schoolchildren, 50% for non-working pensioners and students at higher educational establishments, and 25% for some other groups.

The costs of freight transportation have also been raised: By a factor of 3-4 (depending on the distance) for the railways (within the republic only) and by a factor of 20 for motor transport (except for the transportation of bread and other foodstuffs).

Bread has today doubled in price, and milk, milk products, and babyfood have gone up by 10%. Rents have also doubled, as have heating, hot water supply, and passenger railway fares (except for suburban transportation). Air fares have also been raised: By 375 for flights to other CIS countries and by 8% for nights within the republic. Postage rates have doubled.

At the same time, the decree provides for 1 kg of powdered milk to be given from humanitarian aid once a month free of charge to everybody, but above all to pregnant women and children under 14.

The decree instructs the Health Ministry to work out a mechanism for free distribution of medicines to persons suffering from certain grave diseases and to certain population groups in general, since medicines are also going up in price.

The other decree establishes a minimum level of 600 rubles a month for both wages and pensions, and introduces indexation for them. It also raises the minimum allowance for a child under 17 from 140 to 210 rubles, and increases minimum student grants—to 472.50 rubles for higher educational establishments, to 420 for specialized secondary educational establishments, and to 375 for vocational schools. The minimum postgraduate

grant will be 685 rubles for those doing candidates' degrees and 900 for those doing doctorates.

Self-subsistent enterprises will be setting their own levels for minimum wages depending on their incomes.

Minimum wages at establishments financed from the budget will depend on allocations from the budget.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Rejects Iran Arms Sales Rumor

LD0106154792 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Geydar Aliyev, president of the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan, said yesterday when condemning the aggression committed by the forces of Armenia against the Azerbaijan Republic: At present, fighting is continuing in Karabakh, Urdubad, and Sabarak, and Armenian forces are deploying chemical weapons in their attacks.

Aliyev refuted rumors of arms sales by the Islamic Republic of Iran to Armenia and named Russia and the United States as protectors of Armenia.

He also thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its diplomatic efforts to end the Karabakh crisis, and for the dispatch of over 80 tonnes of food and medicines. [passage omitted]

Aliyev Complains of Azerbaijani Indifference

TA0106202592 Ankara Show Television in Turkish 1840 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Interview with Nakhichevan President Geydar Aliyev by Deniz Arman on the "32d Day" program in Nakhichevan; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Aliyev] Suleyman Demirel calls us by telephone every day, sometimes twice a day. We talk. We are very grateful for that.

[Arman] A little while ago, we saw how you talked on Azerbaijani television and complained about Azerbaijan.

[Aliyev] Yes, we complain. Of course we do, because Azerbaijan does not attach importance to Nakhichevan. I talk with the Turkish prime minister every day on the telephone. However, I have been here for nine months now, and I have not yet been able to talk to the Azerbaijani officials.

[Arman] Do you think elections should be held?

[Aliyev] It is not up to me, as you know. However, as I have said, there is war in Azerbaijan; part of Azerbaijani territory is out of its hands; there are more than 300,000 or 400,000 (?deserters). Electing a president in Azerbaijan at such a time would not be good for morale. I said so before and I say so now. However, it is up to the people to decide whether there will be elections.

Kamberov on Nagorno-Karabakh, Russian Ties

LD0106184992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1720 GMT 1 Jun 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondent Gekchekkhanum Tagiyeva for TASS]

[Text] Baku, 1 Jun—Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet Chairman Isa Kamberov, who is acting president of the republic, has stated his readiness to seek areas of shared interest and common positions with all countries of the West and East, especially with close neighbors Iran, Turkey, and Russia.

Speaking today at a news conference in Baku, Isa Kamberov recalled that Azerbaijan gives preference above all else to the development of direct bilateral relations, meaning the conclusion of mutually favorable and equitable agreements with Russia.

Speaking of the latest events in Nagorno-Karabakh, Isa Kamberov stressed that Azerbaijan's sovereignty over this region and the territory adjoining it must be restored. "This will happen in any case. Whether by peaceful means or as a result of armed struggle depends on Armenia." "The republic," he said, "still adheres to the peaceful way of resolving the problem."

As for the question of the restoration of the status of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast, that can be resolved when Armenia's authorities have secured the return of the Azeris driven from the republic and when the same conditions have been created for them as for the Armenian population in Azerbaijan, Isa Kamberov stated.

President Seeks To Order State Structures

OW0106182792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The speaker of the Azeri Parliament, Isa Kamberov, believes that above all effective state structures must be restored to the republic. Speaking on Azeri television last Sunday [30 May] Kamberov, who is also acting President of Azerbaijan, said that over the two weeks he had been in office were enough time for him to find out that there were chaos and the lack of skilled personnel in state structures. He believes that this was the main reason for the defeat of Azeri forces in Nagorno-Karabakh and the tragedies of Khodialy, Shusha and Lachin.

Kamberov believes that Azerbaijan must attach top priority to establishing "balanced relations" with its neighbors: Turkey, Iran and Georgia, as well as with Russia.

Kamberov said that a temporary status of Russian troops in Azerbaijan would be agreed at bilateral talks with Moscow shortly and that an agreement to that effect would be signed in the near future at the head of state level. He believes the withdrawal of Russian troops will continue till 1994.

Kamberov did not rule out Azerbaijan's joining the treaty of collective security within the CIS and called for cooperation with other CIS member-states on the basis of mutually beneficial bilateral agreements.

Arms Supplied Through Corridor Detailed

OW0106142092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1405 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Azeri National Security Ministry reports that by Monday [1 June] morning Grad launchers, 4 armored personnel carriers and 3 long-range artillery pieces were transferred to Nagorno-Karabakh through the corridor from Armenia. The direct corridor linking Armenia and Karabakh was established on May 9. It runs through the Azeri territory bypassing the city of Lachin.

Sources in the Azeri defence ministry also informed IF [INTERFAX] that on May 31 the village of Sadarak in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic, came under artillery fire, and the villages of Avush in the Sharur region and Kilit in the Ordubad region of Nakhichevan were also shelled from Armenia. Two people were wounded.

On Sunday night, the villages of Arysh in the Fizuli region and Abdal in the Agdam region of Azerbaijan were shelled from Grad launchers from Armenia. One person was killed and four were wounded.

The Armenian defence ministry informed IF that on the night May 31 two villages of Armenia's Goris region were shelled from the Kubatly region of Azerbaijan. A local resident was killed and two people were wounded. The regional center of Kapan and four villages of this region were shelled from the neighbouring Zangelan region of Azerbaijan. In Kapan alone, at least six people were wounded.

Turkey's Demirel Comments on Conflict, Ties

PM0106131792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 May 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Interview with Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel by Aleksandra Lugovskaya in Nakhichevan 27 May, published under general heading: "Suleyman Demirel Opens Bridge Across Araks 5 Kilometers from the Area of Hostilities between Armenia and Azerbaijan"]

[Text] Nakhichevan—On the eve of the ceremony to open the bridge, the Turkish prime minister agreed to reply to your correspondent's questions. And so, unexpectedly, it happened that Geydar Aliyev became my interpreter.

[Lugovskaya] Mr. Demirel, I never thought I would have such a kind intermediary, and I am very grateful to both you and Geydar Aliyev for this interview.

[Demirel] We are practical people, and we put the interests of the cause above everything else. I, too, could become Geydar Aliev's interpreter. We don't stand on ceremony with each other. We are brotherly friends.

[Lugovskaya] Have you known each other for a long time?

[Demirel] Twenty-five years. We met in Baku in 1968.

[Lugovskaya] You must have been very young then?

[Demirel] True, we were mature people, but...we were young.

[Lugovskaya] In 25 years the world has greatly changed, and so has the situation here. How do you see the future of this region?

[Demirel] The result of these changes is the possibility of direct contacts between Nakhichevan and Azerbaijan. Earlier this was impossible.

[Lugovskaya] What does this road mean for Nakhichevan, in your opinion?

[Demirel] Its economic significance is great because it creates conditions for exchanges and trade. Its significance from a political viewpoint is also great because it facilitates communication between people and a strengthening of ties. As for the military aspect, it has no significance.

[Lugovskaya] Why did Turkey so quickly change its decision on the introduction of troops into Nakhichevan?

[Demirel] It did not. Neither the first, nor the second is true. It is of great importance for Turkey that Nakhichevan's status cannot be changed without Turkey's consent. If someone dares to do this, Turkey has a right to its opinion and to its word as guarantor. We have not renounced this. But we want peace.

[Lugovskaya] Could the relations between Turkey and Russia become hostile in connection with the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict?

[Demirel] No. Two days ago I was in Moscow where I concluded an agreement with President Yeltsin: Both Russia and Turkey renounce the use of force.

[Lugovskaya] Could Turkey contribute to the settling of the conflict in the Transcaucasus?

[Demirel] This is a world problem and we are taking part in its settlement. This is a problem which concerns everyone.

[Lugovskaya] Are you hoping for a positive outcome?

[Demirel] Yes, everything will be absolutely fine here.

Political Developments in Republic Updated

PM0106131592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 May 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Georgiy Ivanov-Smolenskiy and Vasif Samedov report: "Azerbaijan Celebrates Day of Rebirth, Tightens Controls on People Entering Republic"]

[Text] Baku—The Day of the Rebirth of Azerbaijani Statehood—this is the title of the holiday which Azerbaijan is marking for the first time as an independent state

28 May. Thursday has been declared a holiday in the republic. On the day before a Milli Majlis session adopted the new state anthem—"Azerbaydzhan Marshy [as transliterated]."

The People's Front Supreme Majlis adopted an appeal to the people which notes that the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic which was established 74 years ago was the first truly democratic republic in the Eastern world. It was in existence for only 23 months before the Bolsheviks invaded, but, the appeal stresses, it managed to play an "exceptional role in the fate of the Azerbaijani people," and in the formulation of the "ideology of Musavatism." The address also includes the standard claim current in Baku today that Armenia "relies on Russia's military assistance" in its military operations and that "pro-Moscow forces in the republic's state structures, including the Ministry of Defense, are trying to bring the freedom-loving Azerbaijani people to their knees by means of military fiascoes, destabilization of the situation, and fomenting of civil war."

According to Iskender Gamidov, minister of internal affairs, staffers of the CIS Joint Armed Forces Main Intelligence Directorate have been asked to end their activities on Azerbaijan's territory. This request "was received with understanding." At the same time internal affairs organs are stepping up checks on citizens of other states entering the republic. Journalists wanting to enter combat areas will henceforth require special Ministry of Defense permission. They will also need permission to enter the republic.

Meanwhile hostilities, oblivious of holidays and non-working days, continued along the whole length of the Azerbaijani-Armenian border. Villages in Zangelanskiy Rayon were subjected to particularly intensive fire. There are dead.

Incidentally, the news in Baku is not just military but also political. The People's Front which was in opposition for a long time has barely managed to come to power before its own opposition emerged. In conversation with us, Etibar Mamedov, one of the organizers of the People's Front of Azerbaijan, and currently the leader of the Party of National Independence of Azerbaijan, declared that his party occupies precisely this position in respect to the current authorities. He stressed that the state structures have now been completely destroyed, that confusion reigns in the administrative sphere, and that parliament has not adopted a single normal law during its entire period of operation. The leader of one of the most influential Azerbaijani parties also noted that the republic's economy is in ruins and that in order to stabilize it and to establish a combat-capable army, wartime laws and much more vigorous efforts than at present are necessary.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Warns Russia Against Interference

OW0106165492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Chairman of Georgia's State Council Eduard Shevardnadze has said that the blocking of the Military-Georgian highway and the suspension of gas supplies to Georgia via the North Caucasus "are not Russia's policies". Speaking on Georgian television Shevardnadze said at the same time that there were "reactionary forces in the Russian parliament and Russian society-were responsible for those actions.

"Georgia is a tiny country, but it is an important country to Russia and Russia should not take any steps that would cause hostile sentiment towards it in Georgia to grow", Shevardnadze said.

The chairman of the State Council said that he had had a "no easy telephone conversation" with the Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy. Earlier, Rutskoy spoke in the Russian parliament in favour of tough sanctions against Tbilisi for the conflict in South Ossetia. "It is deplorable that such a statement was made by one of the country's leaders, and not by some reactionary figure", Shevardnadze said. At the same time Shevardnadze expressed the hope that Rutskoy's statements were not Russian policy, either.

Situation in S. Ossetia 'Extremely Complicated'

LD0106164492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1347 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Telephone report from Tbilisi by IPRINDA News Agency reporter Zurab Dvali]

[Text] The situation around South Ossetia remains extremely tense. In his television address on 31 May, Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian State Council, stated that Russia's stand on the blockade of the republic of North Ossetia remains unclear. He stated that there are certain circles within the Russian leadership who support the imposition of economic sanctions against Georgia. However, in the opinion of the chairman of the State Council, this is not the stand of the whole Russian leadership.

Shevradnadze held a telephone conversation with Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy. He described the conversation as a hard one. Nevertheless, the State Council chairman expressed hope that the Russian Government will be able to adhere to a constructive stand on this issue and will facilitate a peaceful settlement of the conflict as soon as possible.

Valeriy Patrikeyev, commander of the Transcaucasian Military District, spoke on Tskhinvali radio on 1 June. He called on the population of South Ossetia to immediately hand over weapons stolen during the 30 May early morning attack on the engineers' and sappers' regiment.

There have been reports in the Russian mass media on the beginning of the withdrawal of the helicopter regiment from Tskhinvali territory. However, the press service of the Transcaucasian Military District has not confirmed this information; hence, the situation around South Ossetia remains extremely complicated.

Gamsakhurdia Calls Shevardnadze 'Traitor'

AU0106184492 Warsaw NOWA EUROPA in Polish 26 May 92 p 6

[Interview with Zviad Gamsakhurdia, former president of the Republic of Georgia, by Eka Achalkaci; place and date not given: "I Am Still the President of Georgia"]

[Text] [Achalkaci] Exactly a year ago, on 26 May 1991, 87 percent of the citizens of Georgia who took part in the presidential elections voted for you. On 6 January, you left the government's headquarters, which was besieged by the opposition, and left the territory of the republic. What is your assessment of what has happened in Georgia?

[Gamsakhurdia] A totalitarian regime has entrenched itself in Georgia. It breaks up rallies and demonstrations staged by my supporters almost every day. On 20 May, the junta broke up a peaceful demonstration in Tbilisi; two people were killed and dozens were injured (interviewer's note: In actual fact, the demonstration, which involved about 500 people, was broken up with the use of arms, two people were arrested, and a curfew was imposed in Tbilisi). The economic situation is catastrophic. People are dying of hunger. They are committing suicide, because they cannot feed their families.

[Achalkaci] After leaving Armenia, why did you conceal your whereabouts? You did not deny the rumors that were circulating about your return to western Georgia, to Zugdidi.

[Gamsakhurdia] I never concealed anything. Those rumors were circulated by Moscow Television. They need to do that, because they are afraid that too many foreigners will come to visit me. These provocateurs are lying and conspiring against me. I left Tbilisi for Armenia, and then I went to Grozny. I have been living here since then, and I have no intention of leaving. I have not been to Zugdidi.

[Achalkaci] What is you attitude toward Eduard Shevardnadze?

[Gamsakhurdia] Shevardnadze is a traitor and a Moscow agent. Moscow especially sent him to destroy Georgia. He is doing well at that.

[Achalkaci] Do you see any possibility for cooperation with the State Council that is governing Georgia?

[Gamsakhurdia] The State Council is an illegal institution. It includes representatives of the junta and criminal elements. That is why there can be no talk of any kind of cooperation.

[Achalkaci] Nevertheless, I assume that Shevardnadze himself has tired to establish contact with you?

[Gamsakhurdia] Yes, although not in person, but through his envoys.

[Achalkaci] What are your recollections of Shevardnadze as the head of the communist party in Georgia?

[Gamsakhurdia] He was a communist dictator, just like Wojciech Jaruzelski in Poland. There were a lot of political prisoners in Georgia; there was a dictatorship.

[Achalkaci] Did you ever meet Shevardnadze in those days?

[Gamsakhurdia] Yes, twice, in 1970 and 1972. We discussed Georgian problems in general terms. What did we talk about exactly? I do not remember any more.

[Achalkaci] How do you explain the fact that Shevardnadze enjoys such great public support in Georgia, and that he is popular abroad?

[Gamsakhurdia] The rest of the world does not interest me, and as for Georgia, the only people who support Eduard Shevardnadze are the putschists, the communist partyocracy, and criminal elements. The mafia is interested is seeing him head the country.

[Achalkaci] Do you still consider yourself to be the president of Georgia?

[Gamsakhurdia] Of course, I am legally the president and have been elected for a five-year term. My term of office does not end until 1996.

[Achalkaci] What course do you think events will take in Georgia?

[Gamsakhurdia] Everything is heading toward chaos and catastrophe. A civil war is inevitable.

[Achalkaci] What forces support you in Georgia?

[Gamsakhurdia] The entire Georgian nation and (interviewer's note: after a brief silence) all the nations that inhabit Georgia.

[Achalkaci] Are your supporters involved in what is going on in South Ossetia?

[Gamsakhurdia] It is Moscow that is interfering in matters that do not concern it. Kulumbekov and Chochiyev (interviewer's note: the leaders of South Ossetia) are Russian agents. That is why there is still fighting and bloodshed there. That will continue as long as the junta is in power. I am thinking of Shevardnadze's Georgian junta.

[Achalkaci] Who is directing the activities of your supporters in Georgia?

[Gamsakhurdia] I have a lot of people. I cannot name all the names. I am not their organizational leader but their ideological leader.

[Achalkaci] How does your leadership manifest itself?

[Gamsakhurdia] I have called for a nationwide boycott of the junta.

[Achalkaci] The State Council has set 11 October as the date for parliamentary elections; groups that support you can also take part in them. Are you considering participating in the elections?

[Gamsakhurdia] What are you talking about? What elections? I am sure that this is a great fabrication.

[Achalkaci] Where will you be on 26 May?

[Gamsakhurdia] I do not know yet, but in Groznyy, no doubt.

[Achalkaci] How are you being treated in the Chechen Republic, what is the state of your health, and what are you living on?

[Gamsakhurdia] I am being treated very well, like a relative. I am in excellent health. It is impolite to ask about money. When will I return to Georgia? I do not know.

No Clashes in South Ossetia; Blockade Continues

OW0106142292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1405 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Georgian Interior Ministry's press service informed IF [INTERFAX] that there have been no armed clashes between Georgian and Ossetian formations over the past few days. Observers believe that tranquility in South Ossetia will provide conditions for lifting the blockade from the gas pipeline linking North Ossetia and Georgia. According to some sources, the possibility of lifting the blockade will be discussed by the North Ossetian parliament in Vladikavkaz on Tuesday [2 June].

Meanwhile, according to the Sarke independent Georgian agency which referred to Georgia's First Vice-Premier Otar Kvilitaya, the amount of diesel fuel still available in Georgia will last for just a few days.

Group Seizes Transmitter, Military Vehicle

LD0106180792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1600 GMT 1 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow, 1 Jun—Unidentified individuals seized an army transmitter and a vehicle carrying army property from military enterprises in Tbilisi today.

As reported to an ITAR-TASS correspondent at the press center of the Transcaucasian Military District, a "KamAZ" vehicle carrying military property, accompanied by an officer in a private car, was stopped at noon several kilometers from a military factory. The unidentified people in a blue "Moskvich-2140" vehicle, brandishing weapons, forced the vehicles to stop. The attackers took an army transmitter from the officer's car. After getting into the "KamAZ" vehicle, they hid. The servicemen did not enter into a conflict with the armed bandits. The city's commandant's office has started an investigation into the incident.

The press center reports that such attacks aimed at seizing equipment and weapons have recently become more frequent in the district. Firing on military garrisons and units, aimed at provoking the military into returning fire, is taking place.

Transcaucasian Military Unit Defends Property

LD0106184592 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1653 GMT 1 Jun 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Tskhinvali—The command of Trans-Caucasian Military Unit (TCMU) is taking steps to preserve the military unit's property from nationalization, declared by the South Ossetia's administration. In connection with the information provided by Ostankino TV Company and Vesti Russian TV Company, concerning the declaration by the South Ossetia's administration on nationalization of property and armament of the two regiments (a field-engineer and a helicopter regiments) of Russian Army, dislocated in Tskhinvali, Colonel Vasiliy Belchenko, deputy commander-in-chief of the TCMU on work with personnel, said in his interview with PF:

The helicopter regiment has managed to avoid a so-called nationalization, which is nothing else but just an ordinary plunder. Only a field-engineer regiment has suffered, since Ossetian guerrillas have stolen lots of vehicles allocated to it. We are taking urgent measures, up to the use of force, in order to return back what has been stolen. A part of stolen equipment has been already found and returned. Appropriate actions have been enforced so actively, that I can assure that in the near future all the equipment will be returned back to the regiment. The troops have been ordered to open fire in case of any attempt of stealing military equipments. Our unit's command has made an appeal to the Ossetian people, which, in our view, should take an effect, as regards prevention of plunder and deterioration of the situation.

Many people have a keen interest in the date of both Russian regiments' withdrawal from Tskhinvali. It's still premature to talk about any concrete dates, however, presently we are coping with the issues of providing security and withdrawing the servicemen's families and property.

Reports of Personnel Withdrawal 'Rejected'

LD0206124492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1045 GMT 2 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz (North Ossetia) 2 Jun—Last night the town of Tskhinvali, administrative center of South Ossetia, was again subjected to rocket bombardment from Georgian villages. Several dozen rockets were fired at residential areas in the town, and the number of casualties are being clarified. Subunits of the Ossetian guard and self-defense detachments fired back at the Georgian guerrilla positions.

Valeriy Patrikeyev, commander of the troops of the Transcaucasus Military District, which are under Russian jurisdiction, visited the conflict zone; his visit arises from South Ossetia's desire to secede from Georgia. Patrikeyev met with the leadership of the South Ossetian

Republic and appealed over local radio for the immediate return of weapons and military equipment "nationalized" from the Russian sapper regiment stationed there.

Ossetian formations also tried to seize military equipment belonging to a helicopter regiment but were blocked by subunits of a paratroop battalion from the Transcaucasian Military District transferred to South Ossetia. The servicemen have been given orders to shoot to kill if the local population again tries to seize weapons.

Oleg Teziyev, commander of the South Ossetian Armed Forces, has rejected reports that the personnel of sapper and helicopter regiments have started to withdraw from the republic. He said they are still in the area of Tskhinvali, and their territory is being guarded by airborne troops. Meanwhile, he said, the South Ossetian leadership has learned that Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev signed documents transferring a substantial quantity of weapons and equipment from the Transcaucasus Military District munition depots to Georgia.

Torez Kulumbegov, head of the South Ossetian parliament, has sent telegrams to Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy and Army General Pavel Grachev, Minister of Defense, protesting the decision to give Georgia weapons that may be used in armed actions against South Ossetia.

In Vladikavkaz, capital of North Ossetia, a joint meeting of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the Council of Ministers of the North Ossetian SSR, and the republican defense committee has been held. It examined the current stage of the conflict and emergency measures to settle it. The meeting proposed that immediate talks be organized between representative delegations from Russia, North and South Ossetia, Georgia, and Armenia.

Akhsarbek Galazov, chairman of the North Ossetian SSR Supreme Soviet, said the meeting expressed the hope that Russia's leadership will make the necessary appraisal of the worsening conflict between South Ossetia and Georgia, and will take radical steps to prevent it spreading to North Ossetia, which is part of the Russian Federation.

James Baker Arrival in Tbilisi Reported

PM0106133392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 May 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Besik Urigashvili report: "James Baker in Georgia"]

[Text] On Monday [25 May] the U.S. secretary of state's special aircraft landed at Tbilisi airport. He arrived from Lisbon along with Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze. The secretary of state is also accompanied by General John Shalikashvili, who is of Georgian extraction: It is believed that he is the most likely candidate for the position of commander-in-chief of NATO forces in Europe.

In his speech of greeting, delivered from the aircraft steps, J. Baker noted that Georgia has chosen the difficult path of democratic construction, which offers the only opportunity for guaranteeing a worthy future for this country. The U.S. secretary of state attached particular significance to the forthcoming parliamentary elections in October this year for the construction of a democratic society. He also stressed E. Shevardnadze's special role as the guarantor of democratic reforms, calling him a friend and politician who enjoys enormous authority throughout the world. J. Baker stressed that the sum of all these factors permitted the United States and other Western countries to establish diplomatic relations with Georgia. Ultimately their character and depth will depend upon how far this country observes the CSCE principles and honors the obligations it has assumed to observe human rights.

In his answering speech, Eduard Shevardnazde said that Georgia is experiencing a difficult period in its history, but the advance toward democracy is irreversible. In particular, he highlighted the role of the United States, President Bush, and Secretary of State Baker in proffering aid to young democracies, adding that this support and help allow Georgia to look to the future with confidence.

And, of course, the State Council chairman would not be the same if he did not crack a friendly joke. In connection with the arrival in Tbilisi of John Shalikashvili, he asked Baker on the Georgian people's behalf to assist in appointing Shalikashvili to the post of commander-in-chief of the NATO armed forces in Europe, and not to look upon this request as interference in the United States' internal affairs.

On the very same day, in the government residence of Krtsanisi where James Baker is staying, a 30-minute conversation with Eduard Shevardnadze took place.

U.S. General Reported To Help Set Up Forces

LD3105235792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1450 GMT 31 May 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Georgian army seems to be winning influential friends in the West. American General [John Malchase] Shalikashvili, who is Georgian by descent, intends to assist the Georgian State Council in setting up its armed forces. This opens up highly intriguing prospects, because it looks as if Shalikashvili could become the new NATO commander in chief.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Israel

LD0106145792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1402 GMT 1 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow, June 1 TASS—Israel and Georgia signed a protocol on the establishment of diplomatic relations in Tbilisi on Monday [1 June], a spokesman of the Israeli Embassy in Moscow told TASS.

Estonia

Foreign Minister Visits Finland for Discussions

Comments on Seizure of Bases

LD0106211292 Helsinki Suomen Yleisradio Network in Finnish 1500 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Report by Pirkko Poentinen on a 1 June news conference by Estonian Foreign Minister Jaan Manitski]

[Text] Estonia is continuing to seize Russian bases and barracks. According to Estonian Foreign Minister Jaan Manitski, who is visiting Finland, Estonia is only retaking property that belongs to Estonia. Manitski has been foreign minister for less than two months and is visiting Finland for the first time as foreign minister.

[Poentinen] Estonia became independent in early autumn last year after the Soviet Union started to disintegrate, and has since negotiated with Russia on withdrawing Russian troops from Estonian territory. According to Foreign Minister Manitski, Estonia does not know exactly how many men the foreign troops in Estonia number, but the estimates vary from 20,000 to 25,000. Russia estimates that the number of soldiers is only 12,000. This large disagreement on the number of troops shows that the negotiations have really not progressed.

According to Foreign Minister Manitski, Russia fully rejects the idea of a joint negotiations committee of the Baltic countries. Russia wants to have separate negotiations on withdrawing the troops with Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Since the negotiations have not had results, Estonia has come up with its own method. Foreign Minister Manitski comments on this as follows:

[Begin Manitski recording, in English] We took care of Estonian property, with property that was in a process of being destroyed. It was peacefully done. There were no accidents in our country's taking of these properties. [as heard] [end recording]

[Poentinen] Foreign Minister Manitski said that Estonia is continuing the seizure of Russian barracks. According to him, it is only a matter of retaking Estonian property and complying with the laws of the Estonian parliament and the independent state. The aim is not to increase tension.

He reiterated that at the end of this month, Estonia will have a national referendum on the constitution. The first parliamentary elections will take place in autumn and Estonia's own currency will be put into use in the near future. It is thus natural that an independent state also takes care of its property. However, Manitski did not say directly that with the seizure of the barracks, Estonia would want to speed up negotiations with Russia.

A general estimate in the West is that there are about 100,000 Russian troops in the Baltic countries. Of the Baltic countries, Estonia has been able to stop fairly well, the arrival of Russian replacements since last autumn. However, in autumn there were still 47,000 troops there. According to Manitski, Russia has rejected Estonia's offer that a third party be invited to the negotiations. However, negotiations contact on the withdrawal of the troops still exists because negotiations on the government level will continue tomorrow for three days outside Tallinn, Manitski said.

On Finland's and Estonia's relations, Foreign Minister Manitski mentioned that in this first foreign ministerial visit from Estonia to Finland in 50 years, Finland and Estonia are practicing their relations and seeking new forms of cooperation. Finland is offering all sorts of aid and training in different sectors, the military sector included. Tomorrow Manitski will have talks with representatives of the Defense Ministry. Estonia is still seeking a partner for acquiring and improving its armaments, but Finland has declined this honor.

'Exact Strength' Not Known

LD0106211692 Helsinki Suomen Yleisradio Network in Finnish 1600 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] Troops of the former Soviet Union now control 10 percent of Estonian land if the border areas are included, said Estonian Foreign Minister Jaan Manitski in Helsinki on 1 June. He spoke at a news conference after holding talks with Foreign Minister Paavo Vaeyrynen. Manitski did not know the exact strength of the former Soviet troops in Estonia, but estimated that there are about 20,000 to 25,000 soldiers. According to him, in the negotiations with Russia, no progress has taken place on significant questions. The Russians have not proposed any timetable for the withdrawal of the troops. Manitski said that everything is ready in Estonia for putting into use Estonia's own currency, the kroon. He could not say the exact date for putting the currency into use, but hinted that it will take place very soon.

President Mauno Koivisto today received Foreign Minister Manitski. During the half hour courtesy call, topical problems in Estonia were discussed. The foreign minister will return to Estonia by boat tomorrow.